

# The **breweriana** collector

A publication of the **National Association Breweriana Advertising** "America's Oldest National Breweriana Journal"

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SPRING 2008

Quad Cities Brewing: Pre-Pro Brewing in Davenport
BOOKS: Vol. 1 Label Book Available; Update on US Lithographed Tip Trays & Coasters; Hawaii Beer
Stroh Bottle Closures



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The Editor has the right to edit submissions and ads, and may defer publication of a submission for reasons of space or layout. Deadlines for submissions are the same as for classified ads shown on the Buy-Sell-Trade page.

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# breweriana collector

#### SPRING 2008

#141

#### **IMPORTANT: Deadline Change Notice**

In an effort to assure NABA Members get their Summer BC issues and registration packets well in advance of the 2008 Convention, we are moving forward the deadline for contributions, ads, events, and reports to the *Breweriana Collector* magazine. *The NEW DEADLINE is May 15, 2008.* 

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#### POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to:

NABA PO Box 64

#### Chapel Hill, NC 27514-0064

#### **COVER:**

Front: Davenport Malting Co. Tray, Davenport, IA Back: *Girl With Roses* Tip Tray, Davenport Brewing Co.

## Do you have breweriana like this to trade or sell?

Examples of what I collect and trade, and prices I pay for <u>rare</u> items in <u>premium</u> condition:



Cast-glass signs by Brunhoff \$1,000 - \$1,500



Back bar neons by Lackner, Union, Neon Products, Allison, Beeco, Bildmore or Quehl \$1,000 - \$2,500



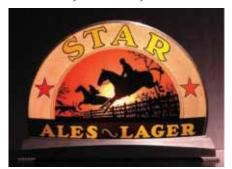
Button lights by Gillco or Phoenix Glass Company \$1,500 - \$3,500



Back bar clocks by Crystal Mfg., Ray-Flex or Lackner \$1,000 - \$2,000



Bullet lights by Cincinnati Advertising Products \$1,000 - \$2,500



Cab lights by Gillco or Cincinnati Advertising Prod's. \$1,500 - \$4,000



Bubblers by Biolite, Gilbert & Jackson or R.R. Kellogg \$1,000 - \$2,500



"Lumi-Lytes" by Lackner or Neon Products \$1,000 - \$2,750



Pre-Pro Vitrolites (lighted or non-lighted) by Myercord \$2,000 - \$5,000 and up

As an advanced collector of early, lighted breweriana in exceptional condition, I have many fine items to trade for items I want. If you'd rather sell than trade, <u>I'll pay you more</u> than dealers and other collectors for items I want. John Bain 917-796-9222 the-back-bar@earthlink.net



■ about Hope and Change, two topics that seem to dominate the newspapers and other media in this election year.

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Every year, in February, there are two events for this lad that symbolize the passing of winter into spring.

The first is very predictable. This is the annual Blue Gray show in Fredericksburg, Virginia, conveniently located about 15 miles from my residence. This is a NABA/BCCA show that is one heck of a lot of fun. There is a great team of joint members who run the show led by Showmeister Rayner Johnson. There are lots of brewers and microbrews represented. Members bring donated kegs from around the country. A great joy is watching Fred Clinton, Frank Zynda, and Dave Alsgaard haul in a special keg of "Grand Cru" from the superb Michigan Brewing Company. There is lots of what we call "Da Good Stuff" there to add to your collection. Your Board of Directors has met there in recent years to address NABA business.

President's Message

The second event is timeless. This is the blooming, in my yard, of a simple flower called a daffodil. My patch always blooms right around the Blue Gray.

Spring symbolizes hope and change to this lad. There is the much-welcomed end of winter, a new series of brewery collectible shows, outdoor flea/antique markets with dealers showing fresh inventory, St. Patrick's day, and the forthcoming summer 2008 NABA Convention.

We do hope to see you at the Convention. The Quad Cities is an exciting place with many attractions. I for one cannot wait to start the great trek across America, visiting antique stores, brewpubs, defunct breweries, and small town USA—somewhere in the vast "between" from my home to the Quad Cities.

# **Auction Improvement Changes**

NABA cannot give enough credit and thanks to the Auction committee for their hard work and dedication to the hobby. Chairman Dave Kapsos has assembled a great team to do the registrations, the set-up, and the Auction itself. Treasurer Kaiser burns the midnight oil and gets the checks to the consignors. NABA had adopted several improvements for the 2007 Auction. The scuttlebutt we heard was that the Auction was improved and there seemed to be a positive "buzz" at the 2007 Bay City Auction.

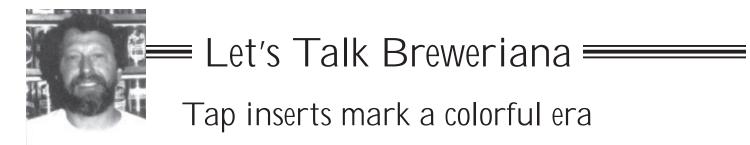
The Auction committee had recommended a major change in the commission schedule to make it more "consignor friendly." This change is: A tiered fee schedule – such as 10% for items up to \$1000 and 5% for those whose amount is over \$1000.

#### Examples:

Sales price: \$900—seller's premium = \$90 Sales price: \$1000—seller's premium = \$100 Sales price: \$1500—seller's premium = \$125 (10% of \$1000 + 5% of \$500)

The Board first considered this change at the October Monarch Board meeting and as a matter of process (Board does not like to shoot from the hip), discussed and adopted it at the Blue Gray Board meeting held on February 15, 2008. In addition, the Board reaffirmed it was within the Auction Committee Chairman's discretion to adopt a private consignment and private screening system. I do understand that for 2008, both the item screening and consignment will be done in the main room.

Regards, Larry Moter, NABA President



Wintage tap handles that were used to dispense beer are among the most interesting and desirable items in the breweriana collecting universe. I'll talk about them in four different, but related, segments.

I am fascinated with tap markers, ball knobs, and other tap handles, but I have never accumulated many of them. My focus is on those issued by Chicago breweries, and only to a limited extent.

Tap markers, mounted in ball or other-shaped knobs, are superb examples of classic, sometimes exquisite, post-Prohibition breweriana. To some, they are the breweriana equivalent of the cone-top beer can, perhaps because they are unique and share an era.

Most tap markers are painted metal inserts, usually colorful and sometimes with intricate designs. They are mounted into relatively prosaic black, red or yellow housings made of Bakelite, plastic, chrome or some other material. Shapes and sizes vary. Most were used in taverns from the late 1930s to the early 1950s. They were manufactured by many companies, including American Emblem, Green Duck, and Robbins.

I acquired a large collection of tap handles, including ball knobs, from the wife of a deceased "closet" collector in 1990. It took almost two years to complete the transaction, but it was worth the wait, time, and money. Visions of exotic Chicago ball knobs and other tap handles danced in my head when I heard about the collection. But when I received a detailed inventory and photos from the seller, I discovered only two were Chicago items, and they were not unusual.

But I decided to buy the entire lot. However, getting it from New Jersey to my suburban Chicago home was a sticking point. The seller was reluctant to pack and ship hundreds of pieces, although I agreed to pay all costs. This is where NABA came into play, in the form of its annual convention. It was in the right place at the right time.

I picked up the collection mostly displayed in homemade wooden cases—on my way to the convention in suburban Baltimore. My full-sized conversion van was packed with containers of breweriana, and the volume increased significantly when I added the collection: "tight squeeze" was an understatement.

My wife Judy drove to Baltimore as I examined the acquisitions and priced pieces to sell or trade at the convention. I wanted to hit the floor running. Fortunately, I had an inventory list and was familiar with its contents. My preparation and plan proved successful.

I was sitting amidst hundreds of beer handles and knobs while riding along an interstate highway. It was one of the most unusual experiences in my 40 years as a collector. My



wife said I was like a little kid on Christmas morning, working my way through a stack of gifts under the tree. And she said I talked almost incessantly about my new toys. For good reason, the title of my column is one of her least favorite lines.

Other than a major label purchase two years prior, it was the largest collection I had ever acquired. It had a mix of quantity and quality, with more of the former. Glasgo, Hazelton Pilsner, Dutch Club, Eichler's, Steber, DuBois Budweiser, and R & H were among the 37 ball knobs in a collection that was top-heavy with Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York brands.

A year later, I had the good fortune to be able to purchase a smaller number of ball knobs and un-mounted markers. Quality decidedly trumped quantity. However, at the time I did not know just how scarce some of them were. When I became better informed (much later), I was less inclined to believe that I had "overpaid" for them.

As most of us know, the word overpaid is subjective, relative—and overused. Who hasn't "overpaid" for a piece of breweriana? And who hasn't felt fortunate when learning later the item was far "better" or scarcer or more valuable than they had believed? Good fortune comes in many forms, even in the shape of a 1930s ball knob or insert.

The items I purchased that day are still in my relatively small Chicago knob, insert, and handle collection, which I have been told contains at least a half-dozen scarce pieces, including at least three "one-onlyknown" knobs.

In the rare category are the Cary Special from the Roosevelt Brewing Co., an un-mounted XL from the Hoerber Brewing Co., and an Old Chippewa from the Superior Brewing Co. An unmounted red insert that advertises F & F Premium from the Illinois Brewing Co. in Thornton can be thrown in for good measure.

Cary is yellow with black lettering. The brand was named for Eugene Cary Jr., president of the brewery and son-in-law of Roosevelt's co-founder and chairman, Edward Litsinger, who in 1941 organized the Prima-Bismarck Brewing Co. in Chicago. Roosevelt was a small, short-lived brewery that did business on Chicago's South Side from 1933 to 1938. It was known as Ruehl Bros. Brewing Co. from 1901 to1925.

The XL letters are gold on a white horizontal band and the insert's background is gold with a raised laurel-leaf pattern. The Old Chippewa features a light green insert mounted in a circular, flat-backed chrome housing.

Another favorite in my col-

lection, but not as scarce as the others, is a Best Made. It came from a purchase of 15 of them in the late 1980s. One stood out. It had a different wording configuration than the others and a black band. I traded or sold it and haven't seen one since, not even a photo.

Anglers revel in stories about big fish they have landed and the "whoppers" that got away, tales that are colorful but often farfetched. No one likes to have a big prize, be it a trophy fish (which I would catch and release) or a rare piece of breweriana (which I would catch and keep), slip through his hands.

One such potential catch—a collection of vintage un-mounted tap markers—slithered through mine in 1991. I still don't know how and why it happened.

The markers were owned by an elderly man who told me he had worked for the company that made them for many years. He saw my name in a newspaper story about breweriana collecting—which was fortuitous and wrote to me. I still have his letters.

He said he had a large number—there were 85 on a list he later sent—of what he called tap emblems. In his first letter, he wanted to know what they were worth and if I would be interested in purchasing them.

"These (are) stamped copper enameled, about 1.5" diameter, that snapped into beer handles of the older type," he said. "These emblems are in mint condition and have never been used. These were made at the American Emblem Co. of New Hartford, N.Y., which has been closed down for many years. My brother and I were die sinkers at the company and we always kept samples when they were completed."

He even provided a detailed sketch of a chrome ball handle.

He said he would send samples of inserts for me to appraise. In my reply, I asked if it would be possible for him to send a list of the markers he owned.

It took a few months before a typed list arrived, but no samples. On the list were nice, really nice, brand names, some of which follow (prices are estimates added by me): Amsterdam Ale (Amsterdam, N. Y., \$250+); Best Made (Chicago, \$150+); Clipper Ale (Lowell, Mass., \$100+); Dotterwyck Special (Olean, N. Y., \$175+); Fidelio (New York City, \$100+); Greenways Ale (Syracuse, N.Y., \$150); Hemrick (Seattle, \$150); Hub City (New Brunswick, N. J., \$175-250); Jockey Club (Seattle, \$250); Silver Foam (Niagara Falls, N. Y., \$300); Liberty (Rochester, N. Y., \$300+); Moore & Quinn (Syracuse, N. Y., \$200); Old Mission (Los Angeles, \$150); Pennant (Thornton, III., \$300+); Quant Ale (Troy, N. Y., \$150) Top Hat (Cincinnati, \$250+) and Watertown (Watertown, N. Y., \$150).

You get the picture. If I had my abacus handy, I'd total the estimated prices for you.

My heart was pounding as I reviewed the list. I knew immediately I needed assistance from experienced collectors if I was going to be of help to this man, and to myself. I did some quick figuring and ascertained that I needed a friendly and understanding loan officer at my bank or a trustworthy collector with a large bankroll. Or both.

I contacted a few tap marker experts, including Bob Christianson of Bandon, OR, who was excited to learn of my opportunity and offered sage advice. And (not surprising), they wanted in on my find. No problem there, as I was primarily interested in the Chicago and Illinois markers. I would have been satisfied with a slice or two of what appeared to be a large and tasty pie in exchange for advice and financial backing.

After gathering as much information as possible—and receiving assurances of financial help—I gave the owner an offer. But it was months before I received a reply. And it didn't sound good. He explained the reason for the delay was that his wife had passed away and he had more on his mind than tap markers. Understandable! But I had a gut feeling that this big fish was starting to head out to sea, as I helplessly watched the line fly off my reel.

I waited. And waited some more, giving the man time to grieve and recover from his loss. It wasn't until the following year that I wrote to him. I would have called, but the man did not provide his unlisted phone number. "You should have been more assertive," I was told. Perhaps. When to impose on someone's privacy is a tough judgment call.

Later that year I finally received a reply. But it was from an attorney or some officious type who was handling the man's estate. The owner had apparently passed away. The letter was terse, cold, to the point. If I was still interested in purchasing the collection, I was told, I had one opportunity—and one only—to bid on it. The letter explained that others also were given the same conditions.

It was news to me that "others" were involved in this deal. I no longer believed in Santa Claus or the Tooth Fairy, but, yes, I was surprised that the collection was being shopped around. I wasn't privy as to how and to whom, nor how many. Remember, this was in the preeBay era, so the sale would not have received much attention. Of course, the owner could have sent letters to other collectors, but there was no indication he had.

I consulted with the experts; asked them how much I should offer. Remember, I had one chance to "get it right." I submitted what all agreed was a fair, even generous, bid.

Months passed, with no answer from the seller's agent. No "Sorry Charley" or anything! I wrote again, but still no answer. To this day, I have never received the simple courtesy of a reply. Nothing. No informa-

tion about the final sale price or who purchased the collection. My line had snapped and the big fish swam unscathed into deep water.

I have no idea who purchased the markers. Not one ball knob or tap marker collector with whom I have spoken knows—or will admit to knowing—who did. I may be in error about this, but I don't believe any collection that fits what I have described has appeared on the open market in the last 15 years.

I had shared basic information with other collectors, but never revealed the name or location of the collection's owner, or the company for which he worked. Some have chastised me for revealing *any* information, said I should have handled the deal on my own. But I had an obligation to the seller to get the best, most accurate information possible. And I didn't want the entire collection because I could not afford it at the time.

Early-on, I could have made a best-guess offer. Most likely it would have been "fair" but probably far below what the markers were really worth. The seller was not only dependant on my knowledge but also on my integrity.

Maybe you have information about this collection; perhaps you are the mystery buyer. No sour grapes here. I just want to satisfy my curiosity about who purchased it. And so do others. I hope these great tap markers are not sitting in a box somewhere, in the possession of someone who doesn't appreciate what they have.

Appreciation is an integral part of collecting. We all have favorite items and stories about how we acquired them, those "fish" that didn't get away.

The aforementioned Cary ball knob is one of my favorites. But I have been fascinated by a second marker from Roosevelt. This insert carries a common name for a beer brand—Old Bohemian—but its place in the pantheon of Chicago ball knobs is loftier. It is not to be confused with Bohemian Club, another scarce knob used by Roosevelt. It is amazing that a small, in-



Spring 2008

significant brewery that was in business for less than five years was responsible for three rare knobs.

This Old Bohemian knob resides comfortably in the excellent collection of NABA member Adolf Grenke, which he has assembled with care. To some, there is nothing unique about this piece, if you discount its pedigree.

It is a "Truename Patented" insert, mounted in a black Bakelite ball, painted deep red with a silver ring trim. The letters are black script outlined in silver. Roosevelt Brewing Co. is in silver block letters. It was produced in about 1936 by the Fisher Products Co. of Syracuse, N. Y. The estimated value for this gem is in excess of \$300.

Being the curious type, I asked Adolf how he acquired it.

"A good breweriana friend from California asked me if I was interested in Chicago tap knobs," he explained. "He had a friend that collected New York knobs and he thought he had seen a knob from Roosevelt Brewing in his collection. 'Did I have any knobs from New York?' he asked. I contacted the guy and mentioned a Power City Brewery knob from Niagara Falls; and we had a trade done right away. Both of us were pleased with such rare knobs!" As they should have been.

It was as simple as that. Each collector had a rare ball knob to trade. Quality for quality is essential when playing the game at this high level.

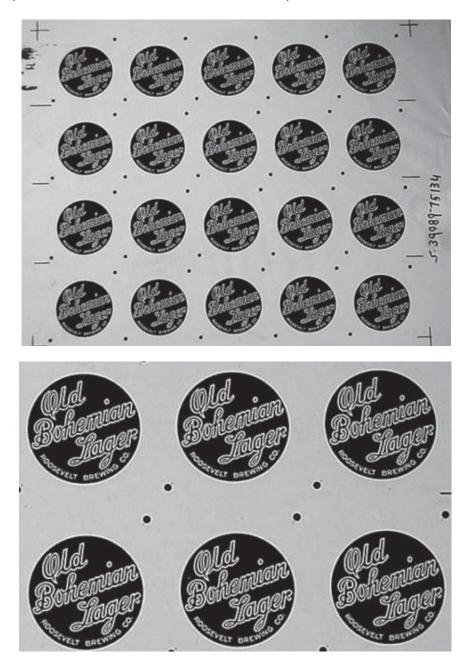
"By the way," Adolf said. "I recently won on eBay the exact same knob, but from Bismarck Brewing Co." It is only one of two known to be in collections, he said.

One reason Adolf's Old Bo-

hemian tap marker was of interest to me is that many years before seeing his, I had acquired a glass printing plate with black and white images of 20 of these markers—arranged in five horizontal rows. It was a key element in the manufacturing process for inserts. I wonder how many of those 20—and others produced—exist today. Only a few, I have been told. Perhaps one of them is Adolf's.

The plate was one of two I purchased at a brewerianafilled Monarch Chapter show in suburban Chicago in the early 1980s. The other has images of 20 scarce inserts for Augsburger, a premium brand of the Monarch Brewing Co., Chicago, in the late 1930s and 1940s. This plate was used by the longdefunct Green Duck Novelty Co. of Chicago, which manufactured many Chicago and other tap markers, some rare.

I wrote about the magnificent array of ball knobs Green Duck produced for the Manhat-





tan Brewing Co. in the Winter 2004/2005 issue of The Breweriana Collector.

Printing plates for other tap markers also were available, and I should have purchased them. I have no idea who did, how many there were and where these plates are today.

carefully stored professionally framed and displaved.

There within our collecting community a growing interest in "industrial" breweriana: printing plates for tap markers, labels and other brew-

eriana; label and beer can proofs and color separations; can body blanks and other items related to the manufacture of beer advertising and cans. Limited availability of those arcane items is a problem, however. To some, this glimpse at a bit of "ground-floor" breweriana his-

Mine have been tory has an irresistible appeal. As do rare ball knobs and tap and soon will be markers such as Adolf's two Old Bohemians.

> If you want to learn more about this fascinating collectis ible, purchase a copy of former NABA president George Baley's superb book "Vintage Beer Tap Markers" (Schiffer Publishing Co., 2003). It is the most important, comprehensive, and colorful reference on the subject. A review of it also is in the Winter 2004/2005 issue. Most prices I used for the tap markers I listed above are based on those in George's book.

> > As they say on TV, the book can be ordered in fine stores everywhere or by contacting their Internet sites. You'll have to purchase the actual knobs and markers elsewhere.

### **New Glarus Pre-Convention Function Cancelled**

The pre-Convention New Glarus function scheduled for July 27-28, 2008 and announced in the last issue of Breweriana Collector HAS BEEN CANCELLED

> The New Glarus Brewing Company has withdrawn their offer to house "Haydock – World of Beer Memorabilia" When they received the news, Herb and Helen contacted NABA to inform us of this unfortunate fact.

> > With Regrets: Larry Moter, President, NABA

# Brewing In The Quad Cities

Part 2: Pre-Pro Brewing in Davenport, Iowa



#### by Kevin Kious & Donald Roussin

In the first part of this saga, we examined the Quad Cities breweries located on the Illinois side of the Mississippi River. This article will focus on the lowa side and the city of Davenport, the largest of the connected towns.

Davenport was for a time home to the biggest post-Prohibition brewery in the state of Iowa. The city had seen the formation of numerous breweries as early as the 1850s, then a blockbuster industry merger in the 1890s. The one plant that emerged after repeal managed to stay open until 1956.

The Quad Cities area, which is hosting our 2008 NABA Convention, also once hosted another important gathering of beer aficionados—the 1870 Convention of the United States Brewers' Association was held in Davenport. This illustrates the importance of the brewing and malting businesses to the local economy at the time, as well as the prestige with which some of the local brewers were held within the industry.

Your authors are betting we NABA members will have as much fun there this summer as the USBA delegates did 138 years ago.

#### THE PIONEER

Mathias Frahm was Davenport's first brewer, opening a small plant (that included a 2 1/2 barrel brew kettle) around 1850. It was located at 144 Harrison Street, which also was home to Frahm's saloon and residence. Around 1860, Frahm moved the brewery operation up the street to the southwest corner of 6<sup>th</sup> and Harrison.

Frahm's business would become known as the City Brewery. The proprietor was a native of the Schleswig-Holstein duchy of Germany. He had come to the US in 1848, working as a farm hand and cooper before arriving in Davenport two years later.

Life was not always easy for Davenport's pioneer brewer. Iowa was for many years a hotbed of prohibitionist activity, and Frahm was hauled to court in 1855 for violating a new city ordinance forbidding the manufacture of liquor. Luckily, the jury found him not guilty, declaring that "the beer brewed by him could not be classified as intoxicating liquors."

Undeterred by his legal problems, that same summer Frahm shipped 200 kegs to the "iceless city" of New Orleans. Mathias Frahm and his family would remain major factors in the Davenport beer business for many decades, but they would soon have lots of competition.

#### EARLY COMPETITORS

Davenport's second brewery, known as the Pacific Brewery, was located on the west side of Main Street, between 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, not far from Frahm's City Brewery. Its owner, Dr. Henry (or Hans) C. Dries was, of all things, a well-to-do professor of philosophy from Holstein, Germany. He turned to others to tend the brew kettle, among them a man named Schneffer who, with his wife, was living on the grounds with the Drieses in 1860.

Thomas C. Carter was an Englishman who operated another early brewery in the adjacent community of East Davenport. Located near the river at East Front Street and Bridge Avenue, the plant was later operated by Canadian brewing pioneer Henry Severn, and it is possible Severn may have been an investor from the beginning.

According to the listings in the 1858-9 city directory, the Carter and Dries breweries were both producing ale and porter, while competitor Frahm was

selling lager beer.

Though he did not appear in the early directory, 100 Years of Brewing claims that Peter Littig had opened the Eagle Brewery by this time. Littig was a Frenchman who had previously run a brewery, with his brother August, across the river in Rock Island, Illinois. The brothers also operated a bakery at the 5<sup>th</sup> and DeSoto brewery location in Davenport.

#### THE CITY BREWERY THRIVES

Despite these and other rivals, the Frahm/City Brewery would be the largest in town for decades. In 1866, the local paper reported that during the first six months of the year the Davenport brewers had produced 4761 barrels, 1147 of which were made at the City Brewery. Priced at \$12 per barrel, local saloonkeepers said they could no longer afford such a high price. To remedy this situation, the Quad City breweries lowered the price to \$11. Still unhappy, the saloons started using smaller glasses for their nickel beers to ensure themselves a sufficient profit margin.

The Frahm brewery experienced steady growth during the ensuing years. A bottling shop, managed by middle son Charles Frahm, was opened in the 1870s, and Mathias Frahm later brought his oldest son Henry into the business as an apprentice brewer. He also sent Henry to the brewing school in Worms, Germany. Following graduation, Henry Frahm worked at several large German breweries before his return to Davenport



#### in 1873.

Henry Frahm worked as brewmaster for his father, and in 1884, with brewery production over 10,000 barrels a year, the firm name was changed to M. Frahm and Son.

The Frahm/City brewery was one of the five area breweries merged into the Davenport Malting Company in 1894.

#### THE PACIFIC BREWERY

H.C. Dries remained owner of the Pacific Brewery through the 1860s. By 1863 he converted from producing ale and porter to the more popular lager style of beer.

In 1869 the brewery was sold to George Noth and Sons (Henry and John). The next year, brewers George Noth and Mathias Frahm were instrumental in

> building the first sanitary sewer system in Davenport. A local journalist had been editorializing about the "villainous odors" on Har-Street rison in the vicinity of the breweries. Frahm and Noth agreed to chip in \$1350



Spring 2008

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FINGER'S CITY DIRECTORY.

#### G. NOTH & SONS,

PROPRIETORS

PACIFIC BREWERY. Noth coming as engineer.

OFFICE: 723 HARRISON STREET,

DAVENPORT, - - - IOWA.

towards a sewer to try and remedy the problem.

The brewers suggested to city fathers that a tax be assessed to pay the remainder of the construction costs. But when this wasn't done, Frahm and Noth went ahead and paid for the whole thing.

George Noth was also involved in a humorous local incident. A staunch Democrat, Noth once lost a political bet with a friend. As a result he had to cart the winner around town in a wheelbarrow, to the accompaniment of a brass band. When the entourage stopped at numerous saloons along the way, Noth was obliged to purchase rounds for the house.

The Noth family ran the Pacific Brewery for over ten years, then decided to sell and continue in just the malting business over in East Davenport. The brewery was sold (for \$11,500) in 1881 to brewing partners J.G. Baumeier & Otto Henn. The brewery suffered a fire that year, was apparently rebuilt, but closed within a couple of years.

In 1889, the Noths organized the Davenport Malt and Grain Company. A huge new malt house was built at 1302 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, and it was enlarged further in 1902, by which time Henry Klindt had become company president. There were still Noths in the company, though, as John Noth continued serving as plant manager, with Henry Noth as superintendent and Edward Noth coming aboard

#### THE EAGLE BREWERY

The Littig family ran the Eagle Brewery for around twenty years. Peter

Littig and son Peter, Jr. were in charge for part of this time, and the elder Littig's brother August was likewise involved. Peter Littig also owned a landmark Davenport saloon called Washington Garden, at 1301 W. 13<sup>th</sup> Street.

By about 1876, with the older generation of Littigs getting up in years (Peter Sr. died in 1881), the two Peter Littigs sold

their share in the Eagle Brewery to J. Lage and Company, which included Joachim Lage (who had been a clerk at Frahm's brewery) and Eagle brewmaster George Mengel.

The next year August Littig sold out to the partners, and Lage and Mengel brought aboard Henry Klindt, a local feed and grain store magnate. Klindt ended up purchasing Lage's share of the brewery in 1890. The next year he was in turn bought out by his son George Klindt and brewer Mengel, along with plant manager (and former locksmith/saloon owner) Herman Wulf.

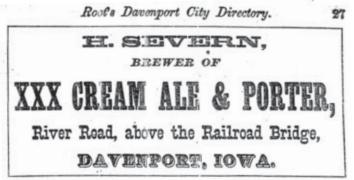
These three men became key figures in the 1894 formation of the Davenport Malting Company conglomerate.

### THE SEVERN BREWERY & MALT HOUSE

While Thomas C. Carter was listed in local city directories as the brewer in East Davenport from 1858-60, after that he went into the saloon business at 10 Main Street in Davenport, which may have been a brewpub for a time. His former beer plant was taken over by George and Henry Severn, who started calling it the Great Western Brewery and Malt House. The facility was also used to manufacture vinegar. An 1867 ad touted the "XXX Cream Ale and Porter" available at the brewery on River Road above the railroad bridge.

The 1903 tome, *100 Years* of *Brewing* credits John Severn with building this brewery. In one section it says this took place in 1857, in another 1859.

John Severn was a native of



Derbyshire, England, who came to Canada in 1835 and started a brewery in Yorkville, a Toronto suburb. He also opened a brewery in California during that state's gold rush, and another in Belleville, Ontario in 1874. A few years later, when the Canada Brewers and Maltsters Association was formed, John Severn was chosen its first president.

George Severn was presumably John's brother, while Henry was George's son. The father moved back to Toronto in the



## Labelology Prohibition Brews

By Bob Kay

The tone of the following text, reprinted from the *Western Brewer*, December 1917, surely seems like a blueprint for the wild and wooly happenings during the years of national Prohibition.

#### **Near Beers and Their Makers**

Although objections are frequently heard to the use of the term near beer when applied to the lowalcoholic or non-alcoholic beer-like cereal beverages of which so many are now being manufactured, we have not yet learned of a term which would be more adaptable, and will therefore continue to use it until a better one makes its appearance.

Many of our readers probably do not realize how many beverages of this nature are now being marketed and will be interested in the following list of names, [ed. note: see sidebar pages 16 - 17] which, although not complete, may be taken as fairly so.

Many of the brands have been registered, others not, and in several instances the same name is being used by several brewers, the right to same not having been definitely established, or in some instances under license. A number of the labels now in use are reproduced elsewhere in this issue, supplementing a similar page published in November. Others will appear in our January issue. [The labels pictured in the 1917-18 issue were in black and white and reproduce poorly.]

Note the extensive list of brand names in the sidebar. Given the near beer names chosen by the brewers, do you get the idea the brewers were in a bad frame of mind (Bone-Dry, No-AL-Ko, and Te-To)? Remember this was in 1917-18.

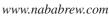
Now let the fun begin! The game is just how many of these treasures we can find today — some 90+ years later. When all said and done, I suspect we could find examples of at least three-forths of them. Here's a start.



GOLDEN GRAIN JUICE CO.

T LABO THAN MOT THE OTH































STRON PRODUCT



#### Near Beers and their Makers Reprinted from the Western Brewer, Dec. 1917

ACO Adam Scheidt Brewing Co., Norristown, Pa. AGRICOLA S. Liebmann's Sons' Brg. Co., Brooklyn. ALMA May Beverage Co., Chicago, Ill. ALPFA Massachusetts Breweries Co., Boston, Mass. ALPHA McAvoy Brewing Co., Chicago, Ill. AMBER St. Louis Beverage Co.. St. Louis, Mo. AMBER NECTAR Hy. Weinhard Estate, Portland, Ore. Beaverhead Brewing Co., Dillon, Mont. AMBROSIA AMBROSIA Central Consumers Co., Louisville, Ky Beadleston & Woerz, New York, N. Y. B. & W. BARMA Val. Blatz Brewing Co., Milwaukee, Wis. BECCO Becker Mfg. Co., Ogden, Utah BEERELLA John F. Oertel Co., L.ouisville, Ky. BEVERA Isaac Leisy Brewing Co.. Cleveland, Ohio Anheuser-Busch Brg. Assn., St. Louis, Mo. BEVO Northern Brewing Co.. Superior. Wis.. BINGO **BIS-MAC** Standard Beverage Co., Baltimore. Md. Consolidated Bottling Co., Newark, N. J. BOB BOLA Cleveland & Sandusky Brg Co., Cleveland, 0. BONE DRY Houston Ice & Brew. Assn., Houston, Tex. BONE DRY Lexington Brewing Co., Lexington. Ky. **BRAN-NEW** Wm. Roesch Bottling Co., Pendleton, Ore. BRAVO Fresno Brewing Co., Fresno, Cal. BRAVO Ph. Zang Brewing Co., Denver, Cob Hoster-Columbus Co., Columbus, Ohio BRUIN BUCK National Beverage Co., Chicago, Ill. BUD Idaho Products Co., Boise, Idaho BUDD Temperance Beverage Co., Chicago, Ill. BURGMEISTER Popel-Giller Co., Warsaw, Ill. BUSCHO John S. Busch Brewing Co., Washington, Mo. CARAMEL Konrad Schreier Co., Sheboygan, Wis. Ph. Schneider Brewing Co., Trinidad, Cob. CENTURY CERO Cero Fruit Beverage Co., Chicago, Ill. CERO Stiffolk Brewing Co., Boston, Mass. CERELLA John F. Oertel Co., Louisville, Ky. CERVA Wm. J. Lemp Brewing Co., St. Louis, Mo. CHECONA C. H. Evans & Sons, Hudson, N. Y. CHRISMO Chr. Moerlein Brewing Co., Cincinnati, 0. St. Louis Brew. Assn., St. Louis, Mo. COLDA COLUMBINE Ph. Zang Brewing Co., Denver, Col. Jung Bottling Works, Cincinnati, Ohio COTTON-TOP CREAM OF HOP Temperance Beverage Co., Chicago Traverse City (Mich.) Brg. Co.. GREEN SEAL Kiewel Products Co., Crookston, Minn. CREMO CRYSTAL ROCK Cleveland & Sandusky Brg Co., Cleveland, 0. Popel-Giller Co., Warsaw, Ill. DAISY DRYNPINE Hinckel Brewing Co., Albany, N. Y. Kiewel Products Co., Crookston, Minn. ECHO **EDELWEISS** Schoenhofen Company, Chicago, Ill. ELF-FIZ C. & J. Michel Brewing Co., La Crosse, Wis. Tacoma Brewing Co., Tacoma, Wash. ERA Elk Brewing Co., Kittanning, Pa. ELKO **EXELSO** Hamm Exelso Co., St. Paul, Minn. FA-BA Fauerbach Brewing Co., Madison, Wis. Jos. Schlitz Brewing Co., Milwaukee, Wis. FAMO FIZZ United States Brewing ,Co., Chicago, Ill. Fremont Brewing Co., Fremont, Nebr. FREMO Copper City Brewing Co., Douglas, Ariz. FRIO Galveston Brewing Assn., Galveston, Texas GALVO GILT TOP-O Spokane Falls Brg. Co., Sioux Falls, S.D. GOLDEN GRAIN JUICE Golden Grain Juice Co.. Minneapolis, Minn. GOI.DEN NECTAR Hy. Weinhard Estate, Portland, Ore. GOLDEN ROD Theo. Hamm Brew. Co., St. Paul, Minn. Capitol Brewing Co., Denver, Col. GOLDEN SEAL GOLD CROWN Virginia Brewing Co., Virginia, Minn.

GOZO M. K. Goetz Brewing Co., St. Joseph, Mo. Keelev Brewing Co., Chicago, Ill. GRAINO GREEN LABEL John Hauck Brewing Co., Cincinnati, 0. HAT'S FAMO Medicine Hat Brg Co., Medicine Hat, Alberta HEALTH BREW Hellroth & Carison, Minneapolis, Minn. HEILEMANN'S DELIGHT G. Heilemann Co., La Crosse, Wis. HEK Griesedieck Beverage Co., St. Louis, Mo. HERMOC C. Heil Brewing Co., Burlington, Iowa HIGH JINKS Fairmount Beverage Co., Cincinnati, Ohio HI-LO Portsmouth Distributing Co., Portsmouth, N. H. HIT Chr. Moerlein Brewing Co., Cincinnati, Ohio Huron Beverage Co., Huron, S. D. HOP TEA HOPSKI Mission Brewing Co., San Diego, Cal. HOP TONE Temperance Beverages Co., Chicago, Ill. Normandie Company, Norfolk, Va. HOT-KO H & S Augusta Ice & Beverage Co., Augusta. Ga. IMPERIAL Konrad Schreier Co., Sheboygan, Wis. IRIS P. Schoenhofen Brewing Co., Chicago, Ill. ITS Fred Miller Brewing Co., Milwaukee, Wis. JESNO Frank Jones Brewing Co., Portsmouth, N. H. JIFFY E. St. Louis-New Athens BC, New Athens, Ill. J.M. JUNIOR Columbia Brewing Co., Logansport, MD. JUS-RITE United States Brewing Co., Chicago, Ill. Lexington Brewing Co., Lexington, Ky. KENTOC St. Joseph Brewing Co., St. Joseph. Mo. LACO LA PALOMA Florida Brewing Co., Tampa, Fla. LACTONADE Omaha Beverage Co., Omaha, Nebr. LEETO Cullen Investment Co., Salt Lake City, Utah LIFESTAFF Hemrich's Staff Products Co., Seattle, Wash. LOGGER Temperance Beverage Co., Chicago, Ill. Hy. Weinhard Estate, Portland, Ore. LUXO LUXUS Fred Krug Products Co., Omaha, Nebr. MALT BREW Neef Bros. Brewing Co., Denver, Col. Berghoff Brg. Assn., Ft. Wayne, md. MALT CREAM MALT-ERA Columbia Brewing Co., Tacoma, Wash. MALT TONIC May Beverage Co., Chicago, Ill. MALTA Interstate Products.Co., Vancouver, Wash. Jacob Schmidt Brewing Co., St. Paul, Minn. MALTA La Grande Beverage Co., La Grande, Oregon MALTINA Adolph Coors Brewing Co., Golden, Col. MANNAH MECCA Mecca Products Co., Jacksonville, Fla. MEL-LO Muessel Brewing Co., South Bend, Md.. Standard Brewery, Cleveland, Ohio METZZ MILO Milo Beverage Co., Milwaukee, Wis. MILWAUKEE Gate City Bottling Works, Canton, S. D; MIZZ Standard Brewery, Cleveland, Ohio MOCCASIN Hauenstein Brg. Go., New Ulm, Minn. MOER-LO Chr. Moerlein Brewing Co., Cincinnati, Ohio MOLTJOOS Rock Island Moltjoos Co., Rock Island, Ill. Martin Moehn, Burlington, Iowa MOLTO MULO Geo. Muehiebach Brg Co., Kansas City, Mo. N-A-B S. Liebmann's Sons' Brg. Co., Brooklyn. N. I. P H. P. Finlay & Co., New York, N. Y. Dick & Bros. Quincy Brewery Co., Quincy. Ill. NEARO NEUTRIL BUD Sunset Mercantile Co., Wallace, Idaho NEW STYLE G. Heileman Company, La Crosse, Wis. Iroquois Brewing Co., Buffalo, N.Y. NEW TRIAL NON-ALCO Fitger Brewing Co., Duluth, Minn. NON-TOXO Hamm Non-Toxo Co., St. Paul, Minn. NO-AL-KO Fitger Brewing Co., Duluth, Minn. NO MALT Jacob Schmidt Brewing Co., St. Paul, Minn. NU-BRU Clark-Remelin Co., . Ellensburg, Wash. NULO Frank H. Settele, Baltimore, Md. OASIS Rudolph Stecher, Murphysboro, Ill. OLD TIMES United Breweries Co., Chicago, Ill.

OMA	Omaha Beverage Co., Omaha, Nebr.	STERLING	Evansville Brg. Assn., Evansville, Ind.
OUR SPECIAL	Popel-Giller Co., Warsaw, Ill.	STORZ	-
P.O.B.	Standard Beverage Co., Baltimore, Md.	BEVERAGE	Storz Beverage & Ice Co., Omaha, Neb.
PABLO	Pabst Brewing Co., Milwaukee, Wis.	SUB ROSA	Quinn & Nolan Beverwyck Brg. Co., Albany.
PALOMA	Paloma Co., Tampa. Fla.	TANHAUSER	Royal Brewing Co., Weston, Mo.
PEP	Bunker Hills Breweries, Inc., Boston, Mass.	TEMP BREW	Temp Brew Beverage Co., Des Moines.
PILOT	Monumental Brewing Co., Baltimore, Md.	TEMP BREW	Leisy Brewing Co Peoria. Ill.
PITZL'S DAISY	Math. Pitzl Brewery, New Munich, Minn.	TEMPO	Schuster Brewing Co., Rochester, Minn.
POINSETT	Chattanooga Brewing Co., Chattanooga, Tenn.	TEMPURA	M. K. Goetz Brewing Co., St. Joseph, Mo.
PROXIE	Wacker & Birk Brg. & Mltg. Co., Chicago, Ill.	TEMTONE	Mogren & Anderson. Chicago, Ill.
PURITAN	Kansas City Breweries Co., Kansas City, Mo.	TE-TO	Willow Springs Brewing Co., Omaha, Nebr.
PURO	Puro Beverage Co., Mineral Point, Wis	THAT'S IT	C. L. Centlivre Brg. Co., Fort Wayne.
QUAKER	Temperance Beverage Co., Chicago, Ill.	TIVOLINE	Tivoli-Union Co., Denver, Col.
QUEEN	Augusta Ice & Beverage Co., Augusta, Ga.	ТОКО	Hy Weinhard Estate, Portland, Ore.
QUIZZ	Wiedemann Quizz Co., Newport. Ky.	TONICA	Indianapolis Brewing Co., Indianapolis, Ind.
REIF'S SPECIAL	Purity Extract & Tonic Co., Chattanooga, Tn.	TOLUCO	Bay City Beverage Co., Bay City, Mich.
REX	Augusta Ice & Beverage Co., Augusta, Ga.	TREBO	Louis Obert Brewing Co., St. Louis, Mo.
REX NUTRI0	Minneapolis Brg. Co., Minneapolis.	TRYME	Hinckel Brewery Co., Albany, N. Y.
ROSE LEAF.	Schwenk-Barth Brewing Co., Yankton, S. D.	TUYU	Ruff's Brewing Co., Quincy, Ill.
SAFETY BREW	People's Bottling Co., Duluth, Minn.	VITA	Petersen Brewing Co., Grand Rapids, Mich.
SAMO	A. Schreiber Brewing Co., Buffalo. N. Y.	VIVA TONE	Royal Brewing Co., Weston, Mo.
SANGO	Reisch Beverage Co., Springfield, Ill.	VIVO	Fred Miller Brewing Co., Milwaukee, Wis.
SEABOARD	Seaboard Beverage Co., Baltimore. Md.	WHITE RIBBON	Consumers' Brg. Co., New Orleans.
SERVO	Jung Brewing Co., Milwaukee, Wis.	WHITE RIBBON	Northwestern Brewing Co., Chicago, Ill.
SILVER TOP	Royal Brewing Go., Weston, Mo.	WHITE RIBBON	Temperance Beverage Co., Chicago, Ill.
SNAPPY	Neef Bros. Brewing Co., Denver, Col.	WHITE RIBBON	Tivoli-Union Co., Denver, Col.
SOBRIETY	Duluth Brewing Co., Duluth, Minn.	WHITE RIBBON	Union Brewing Cot, Anaheim, Cal.
SOCIABLE	Duluth Brewing & Malting Co Duluth. Mn.	WUERZBURGER	Ph. Zang Brewing Co., Denver, Col.
SPECIAL	Val. Blatz Brewing Co., Milwaukee, Wis.	YAKO	Cleveland Home Brewing Co., Cleveland, Oh.
SPECIAL	Monett Distributing Co., Chicago, Ill.	YIP	Bunker Hill Breweries, Inc., Boston. Mass.

Many thanks to Bill Carlisle, Randy Carlson and Carl Miller for bringing this list to my attention and helping procure a copy.



mid-1860s, leaving Henry to carry on. The Severn plant had become the only ale brewery in town.

At some point, the Severns sold the brewery: an article in *Western Brewer* recounts a serious fire on March 2, 1880 at Davenport's Great Western Brewery which was then owned by J.H. Atkinson, who also ran a malt house on Front Street with the Frahms. The fire started in the malt house and spread to the main building. A large amount of malt and grain was destroyed in the blaze, includ-

11 FINGER'S CITY DIRECTORY. PETER LITTIG. JR. ADDDRT LITTIG. PETER LITTIG & BRO. PROPRIETORS EAGLE BREWERY, COR. DE SOTO AND FIFTH STREETS, DEALERS IN HOPS, MALT, 4.90 BREWER'S SUPPLIES GENERALLY. Our Celebrated Lagor Boss constantly on hand. Orders by mail carefully and secondly attended to. Office No. 1235 West Fifth Street, Davenport, Iowa-LEHRKIND & CO. BLACK HAWK BREWERY, MANUPACTURERS OF AND DEALERS IN No. 1 Malt | Lager Beer. Brevery and Office Half-Mile West of West End of Third Street Car Truck. R. LANGE E. KOESLER KOEHLER & LANGE, BREWERY. ARSENAL Nee. 101 and 103 Mound Sizeei, EAST DAVENPORT.

ing some belonging to Mathias Frahm.

Losses in the fire were estimated at \$8500, with \$6500 covered by insurance. It was after this that the Noth family stepped in and established the East Davenport Malt House at the location.

#### THE ARSENAL BREWERY

While the Arsenal Brewery, also in East Davenport, later became a major player in the local beer business, its origins are a bit obscure. Though *100 Years* of Brewing states that it was established in 1858 by Knepper and Scheily, other sources cast some doubt on the accuracy of this statement.

The 1860 city directory lists a brewery operated by J.W. Shelley and Joseph Emerick at the southeast corner of Perry and Pleasant streets. That same year's census indicates that Emerick and Henry Shiley were brewers whose families lived together (likely at the brewery), with Daniel Shelley, likewise a brewer, living next door.



HENRY KOEHLER, ESQ. DWENPORT 10MA. PRESIDENT OF THE IDWA BREWER'S ASSOCIATION.

The trio hailed from the state of New York. Frederick Knepper was a brewer living elsewhere in town.

Whatever the business relationship among these men, the 1863 city guide shows just Shiley and Emerick doing the brewing. The partners would soon add lager beer to the brewery's lineup in addition to their ale and porter.

The Arsenal Brewery and Malt House name appears in the next available directory in 1866, as the property of Henry Shiley and Frederick C. Knepper, located at Mound and Front streets in East Davenport.

In 1868 Henry Schlapp replaced Shiley as Knepper's business partner, by which time lager beer had become Arsenal's only product. Schlapp was no newcomer to lowa brewing, having previously operated a plant down river in Ft. Madison with partner and brotherin-law Henry Koehler. In 1872, following the death of Schlapp, Henry Koehler and Rudolph Lange (another Koehler brotherin-law) purchased the Arsenal Brewery.

Henry Koehler had trained as a brewer in Germany, where he was born in 1828. At age twenty he arrived in New York City, then drifted west. After working briefly at the Lemp brewery in St. Louis, he learned that the owner of the brewery in Fort Madison had gone to California, and arranged to lease that plant.

Before long the Fort Madison brewery came under increasing assault by prohibitionists, so Koehler opted to return to the more brewery-friendly city of St. Louis, where he was a partner in the Excelsior brewery. The Koehler family, including Henry's son Oscar, would later build the giant American Brewing Company in St. Louis.

Like his brewery cohort, Rudolph Lange was German, but his vocation had been that of a grocer in Burlington, lowa prior to his entry into the Davenport beer business.

The Arsenal Brewery was also a target of raving fundamentalists. At one point, gunwielding drys had invaded the stockhouse and let the beer out of 300 kegs. Another time, they threw soap into some of Arsenal's vats, supposedly causing \$10,000 worth of damage.

Despite these setbacks, Koehler and Lange built the Arsenal Brewery into Davenport's second largest. Their nephew Charles Schlapp would join them as brewery foreman in the late 1870s, and in the early 1880s they won a celebrated lawsuit challenging some of lowa's prohibition laws. Later Koehler and Lange would be instrumental in organizing the 1894 Davenport Malting Company merger.

#### THE LEHRKIND/BLACK HAWK BREWERY

In 1865, Julius Lehrkind and his brother Henry built a brewery in Black Hawk, a community on the west end of Davenport. The Lehrkinds were Prussian immigrants, and Julius had worked at a brewery in Philadelphia prior to coming to Davenport.

Fire was always a threat to early breweries as open flames were needed for brewing, malting, and pitching kegs. These activities often took place in frame buildings, so brewery fires were not uncommon. But to say that the Lehrkinds had unusually bad luck with fire would be putting it mildly.

In 1872, fire struck the original brewery on Telegraph Road. While employees frantically hauled casks out of the cellar as the flames spread, several hundred barrels were ruined. Damage was estimated at \$22,000. The brewery was quickly rebuilt and business resumed.

Disaster struck again on March 4, 1880 (oddly, just two days after the severe fire at the Severn brewery), when all three buildings of the Black Hawk Brewery were destroyed by another blaze. All that could be saved were the brewery's ice houses. The Lehrkinds must not have learned their lesson from the first fire very well, as damages were estimated at between \$25,000 and \$30,000 and the facility was insured for only \$12,000. Once again the Lehrkinds rebuilt, but the unlucky Black Hawk site was abandoned and the new brewery was erected closer to town at 2<sup>nd</sup> and Taylor Streets. Unbelievably, fire struck the Lehrkinds a third time in 1883, starting in the stables then spreading to the brewhouse. Fortunately, damages were limited to around \$5000 this time.

City directories indicate the Lehrkinds kept the Black Hawk Brewery name even after moving into town, but later they started calling their business the Genuine Lager Brewery, which became a part of the 1894 Davenport Malting Company merger.

Julius Lehrkind took his booty from the merger and headed for Bozeman, Montana, where he had a new brewery constructed in 1896. Incredibly, this site was damaged by fire the very next year, with the malt house completely destroyed. Though the brewhouse was saved, damages amounted to \$100,000 while the insurance was half that.

Lehrkind was nothing if not persistent, and he once more

rebuilt. His Gallatin Brewing Company in Bozeman would operate until Prohibition, and briefly thereafter.

#### THE ZOLLERS

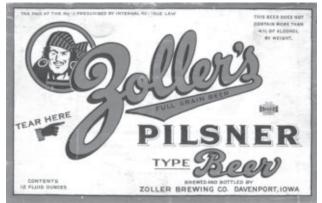
While "Holler for Zoller" would become one of the catchier beer slogans of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, for many years

Ernst Zoller and his relatives were only bit players in the local brewing industry. Zoller had first appeared in Davenport in 1848, but wasn't around long, as he caught "gold fever" and headed for California.

Ernst Zoller returned to Davenport in 1859 and supposedly began a brewery. If true, Zoller must have believed in keeping a low profile, as much evidence to back this assertion is lacking. We are left to trust the 1882 county history, which states that upon his return to town he "embarked upon a brewing enterprise at Black Hawk in a small way."

Zoller died in 1874, leaving sons Ernst Jr., August and Charles. The boys must have continued their father's brewing ways: an 1876 city directory ad lists A. Zoller and Bro. (Charles) as both maltsters and brewers. But by 1881, Charles Zoller was working at the Arsenal Brewery in East Davenport, while Ernst was a salesman for the Henning J. Witt soda factory. August Zoller was in the feed business around this time.

After Julius Lehrkind left the frequently-burned Black Hawk site to build his new brewery, the Zoller Brothers eventually acquired the property and built a malt house there. This may have been in 1882, although that year's city directory indicates Charles was brewing for the Lehrkinds at their new plant



while Ernst worked as a maltster at 909 West 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. The Zoller Malt House doesn't appear in the records until 1885.

While August and Ernst Zoller (operating as A. Zoller & Bro.) are shown as proprietors of their Black Hawk Malthouse in an 1888 reference, Charles

The Breweriana Collector

was listed as a driver. When the Zollers decided to get more serious about the brewing business and constructed a brewery next to the malt house a couple of years later, Charlie (as Charles preferred to be called) and his brewing expertise were brought aboard under the corporate mantle of "A. Zoller and Bros."

Western Brewer reported in May, 1890 that the "well known maltsters" had just completed their 7000 barrel plant. For the public name of the brewery, the Zollers dusted off Julius Lehrkind's old Black Hawk Brewery tag.

The facility was part of the Davenport Malting Company merger in 1894. It wouldn't be long, though, before the Zollers would strike out on their own to become a DMC competitor.

#### THE DAVENPORT MALTING COMPANY

Talk of consolidation in the Davenport brewing industry began in 1894. It was an



era of mergers throughout the country, as larger brewers with their marketing muscle and economies of scale were pushing the smaller concerns out of business. The three breweries across the river in Rock Island had combined just the previous vear.

The Davenport deal was consummated on October 22, 1894 when the interests of the Frahm (City), Eagle, Arsenal and Black Hawk (Zoller) breweries were merged. Primary figures in the merger were Oscar Koehler of the Arsenal Brewery, and the Eagle Brewery trio

of George Mengel, George Klindt and Herman Wulf. Koehler was named company president, Mengel vice-president, Klindt secretary/treasurer and Wulf manager.

In addition to the officers, corporate directors included Rudolph Lange, Martin Frahm, Ernst Zoller and Henry Vollmer. The latter was named to represent the interests of Julia Frahm, widow of Henry Frahm, who had died only three weeks prior to the merger announcement at just 42 years of age. Western Brewer reported that the reason for the merger was that the breweries will "be able to put their product on the market at a price that will bar outside competition."

DMC president Oscar Koehler had a sterling brewing background. Born in Ft. Madison in 1857, while his father (who retired after the DMC merger) was running the brewery there, he attended the public schools of St. Louis and Davenport, graduating from high school in the latter town. At age 17 he went to Europe, graduating from the brewing academy at Worms and then heading to the University of Leipzig, where he spent four years and left with a doctorate degree in chemistry.

Koehler then returned to Davenport to work at the Arsenal Brewery. He later went back to St. Louis, where he helped his family start the Henry Koehler Brewing Association plant, a wine company, and in 1890



the American Brewing Company. Oscar came back to Davenport in 1894 to more easily perform his Davenport Malting Company duties.

While not initially a part of the merger, when the DMC deal was inked, the company had already arranged to purchase the Lehrkind Brewery for a reported \$60,000. Plans were also developed to expand the City Brewery, but they were soon abandoned and the partners opted to build an entirely new plant at the Lehrkind site, where the DMC quickly began construction of what would be nicknamed the Second Street Brewery.

The new 100,000 barrel facility was completed in 1895 and soon became the conglomerate's exclusive brewing location. The City, Eagle and Arsenal sites would be used only for malting purposes. A grand opening was held at the new plant at 1225 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in June.

At this point the merged brewery's future looked bright: the dry forces were being held at bay and there was no significant local competition. This would quickly change, however, and the sources would come not just from the prohibitionists but also from within their own ranks.

#### TWO NEW BREWERIES TWO FINAL DECADES

The Davenport Malting Company merger was a success from the start. So much Pale Export and Muenchener were being sold that the new brewery needed to be expanded just a couple of years after it opened. Plant superintendent George Mengel helped design a three-story addition to the plant in the spring of 1897. It included a racking room, wash house and a hop storage area.

Following the 1898 death of Rudolph Lange and the passing of Oscar Koehler four years later, the DMC corporate hierarchy consisted of Herman Wulf as president, George Mengel as vice-president, and George Klindt as secretary-treasurer.

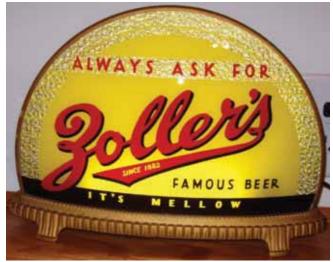
Meanwhile, shortly after the DMC merger, the Zoller brothers had jumped ship to again organize their own brewery. Named the Independent Malting Company, it purchased land at Second and Davie streets from a railroad and began construction on a new plant that would feature a four-story brewhouse.

Brewing commenced at the facility on November 6, 1895. Ernst Zoller, Jr. was the IMC president, his brother August secretary-treasurer, and Max Heule served as both corporate vice-president and superinten-



dent, while Charles Zoller was head salesman.

Like the rival DMC, Independent was quite successful from the outset. By the fall of 1897 new cellars and a wash house were needed, part of a \$50,000 expansion. A year later, IMC increased its capital stock from \$50,000 to



\$150,000 which signaled further improvements. Most of this new stock was confidently snatched up by current stockholders at the meeting where it was authorized. Some of the money went to build a new malt house.

While sales of its Select and Export brands were strong, in 1901 Independent decided a bottling plant was needed. For their bottled beer, the name Old Blackhawk was chosen. This reflected the Zollers roots in the Black Hawk community, on the western edge of Davenport, where they had previously performed their brewing and malting duties. It also enabled them to use a fancy Native American motif on their labels.

### NEW BUILDINGS, NEW NAMES

For Davenport brewers, 1908 was a big year. The Davenport Malting Company had suffered a fire late in 1906. While production continued, this became a catalyst for building additional new structures. The new buildings were completed by the summer of 1908, and were substantial enough to become the subject of lengthy illustrated articles in both Western Brewer and American Brewer. To celebrate the new plant, the company opted to change its name to the Davenport Brewing

Company.

Control of the brewery still rested in the hands of the Koehler family (Henry and Hugo) from the old Arsenal Brewery and the former Eagle Brewery trio of Klindt, Wulf and Mengel.

Over at Independent, the Zoller family had gained control of most of the company stock. Ernst Jr. continued as president, August had become vicepresident and Charles treasurer. Ernst's son Fred was brought aboard as IMC secretary. (Many years later his wife would recall to the local newspaper his going to the office in a starched-collar shirt, surrounded by the giant ledger books sitting on his roll top desk.)

The Zollers chose to change the name of their brewery as well, selecting the rather wordy title of Independent Brewing and Malting Company.

Both breweries did well for the next several years. But while they could survive competing with each other, there was one thing that could stop them—the renewed success of the prohibition movement. In the spring of 1915, the state of Iowa elected to vote itself dry, to take effect January 1, 1916.

While it was reported that both concerns were considering building new plants across the river in Illinois, nothing that rash was attempted. On March 15, 1916 *Western Brewer* noted that the Davenport Brewing Company had closed its doors. The company tried to survive by contracting with both the Rock Island Brewing Company and the Independent Breweries Company of St. Louis to continue production of its Davenport Pale brand, but would never brew again.

It was a terrible year for the Davenport brewing industry. Not only had the state gone dry, but more bad news followed. The Arsenal Brewery in East Davenport was torn down, depriving locals of a well-known landmark. Parts of the brewery were saved, however, as the city purchased some of the stones from the structure to use in road construction.

Then September 11 brought the death of local brewing pioneer August Littig at the ripe old age of 98. While Littig had retired from the business way back in 1877, he had kept up his acquaintances with his fellow brewers and had still been held in high esteem within the industry.

Just a few days later, Emil Wulf, the final brewmaster for the Davenport Brewing Company, passed away at age 39 at his father Herman's home. He had never completely recovered from a Chicago street car accident the previous year.

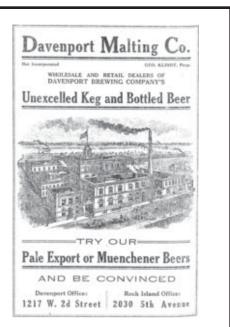
Despite Prohibition, the Zollers kept their Independent Brewing and Malting Company plant open as a cold storage facility. They also kept producing malt products and near beer into the 1920s, with indifferent success, before shutting down. Ernst Zoller next tried his hand in the trucking business. During the dark years, he took walks through the brewery, remembering the golden days of Davenport beer and dreaming of its possible revival. Unfortunately Zoller died during the Prohibition era, his dream of reopening the brewery never realized.



#### THE MALTING BUSINESS

Owing to its proximity to barley growers and its handy shipping location on the Mississippi, Davenport was something of a malting center. In the early 1850s, W. H. Decker opened a malt house in Davenport that was the first in lowa not associated with a brewery. In addition each of the major breweries in Davenport also operated their own malting plants.

A newly organized company called the Northwestern Malting and Construction Company took over the old Decker plant in 1891. This facility was destroyed by a fire two years later. Northwestern briefly moved operations to the former Huber malt plant across the river in Rock Island before abandoning



the Quad Cities entirely to establish two malt houses in Omaha and a pair in Iowa at Council Bluffs and Cedar Rapids.

In 1880 the brewing Noth family established the East Davenport Malt House at the former Severn brewery. Ten years later the Noths and partners organized the Davenport Malt and Grain Company, which was located across the street from the Eagle Brewery. This plant was expanded in 1902. John Noth served as plant manager, while company president was Henry Klindt, father of Davenport Malting Company officer George Klindt.

Also worth noting is the unusual fact that, at the turn of the last century, both major Davenport breweries included the word "Malting" in their company names. One can't help but wonder if this was an effort to shield the businesses from the prohibitionists, or if the owners were simply so fond of malt making that they wanted it mentioned.

Sources for this article included: 100 Years of Brewing; Western Brewer; American Brewer; The Breweries of Iowa by Randy Carlson; The Antique Bottles of Iowa 1846-1915 by Mike Burggraaf; U.S. Census Records; The Quad City Times; Rock Island, Moline and Davenport city directories; and Who's Who in Brew. The authors would also like to thank the following for their assistance in preparing this article: Mike England, Don Johnston, Bob Kay, Phil Pospychala, Merle Vastine, Mike Wenthe and Mark Wiseman.

# Talking Chalk

By George Baley

### The Plasto Manufacturing Company Chicago, Illinois Part I



When one is involved with the "act" of collecting back bar breweriana, commonly called "chalks," it does not take too long to learn of and know who was one of the largest manufacturers of these items: Plasto Manufacturing. These point-of-purchase (POP) items have become very popular and now grace the collections of many breweriana collectors.

Having grown up in the Chicago area during the heyday of this company, I only wonder what life would have been like had I started collecting chalks long before 1978. Maybe I did. The first chalk I ever bought as a kid was purchased down at the Maxwell Street Market, long before I was of age to

drink, much less get involved with breweriana. It was one of the Johnnie Pfeiffer (320 in my book) statues. Back then (early 1950s) it was probably a fairly new item, right out of the Plasto models. I kept it for many years, stored in our basement bar, until the 1960s. I was dating a girl (always a bad sign) who was attending Cornell College in Iowa and living in a place on campus called Pfeiffer Hall. Well, you can guess where that statue went. I can only hope Janet D. still has it displayed in her recreation room.

#### Joe Borowitz

When I began doing some background work for my first book on statues in 1990, I spent several days at the Chicago Public Library trying to come up with some info on Plasto and other statue companies. Searching through old Chicago phone books and commercial business references, I came across a little background on Plasto's locations and the names of the several persons in leadership positions at the company in the late 1940s.

From the references, Joseph Borowitz was listed as President and founder of Plasto. The 1990 phone book for Chicago had the name *Joseph Borowitz* listed as living on Lake Shore Drive in Chicago. Could this be the same person? On the chance that this was the same Borowitz, I sent him a letter after several phone calls reached an out of service number.

Maybe six months later, I received a call one day from Joe who said that he was indeed the former owner of Plasto. What a thrill! He was long retired from Plasto and living in Las Vegas during the winter months, but promised to call and meet with me upon his return to Chicago later that spring.

I met with Joe that year (1991) and again in 2002 to gather background info on the company. Most of what he had to share was limited to recollections of the early days of Plasto, plus an odd box of old literature and factory photographs. With his permission, I recorded two hours of my second interview—



Figure 1. Joe Borowitz

much of which is included in this article.

Joe lived with his wife in a penthouse apartment on Lake Shore Drive in Chicago. Upon entering his home, I was taken with the outstanding view of Lake Michigan and a total lack of any beer statue displays. I guess I really did not expect to see shelves and shelves of rare items, but one could hope.

After the usual friendly catching up on life and the status of the first book, one of the next questions on my mind was what happened to all the molds from his company? He explained that when no additional orders were anticipated or received, they were all destroyed. Destroyed? Say it ain't so, Joe. But sadly it was the truth. I guess being a relatively small company, Plasto officials did not see the value of keeping old stuff around for potential future use when space was at a premium. In addition, as the market changed toward items other



Figure 2. Kilroy was Here Statue

than beer advertising, the molds became dust collectors.

I queried Joe if he had kept anything from his Plasto days. He smiled and walked over to a bookcase and took down a small plastic figure of a pregnant girl. I quickly deduced that this was not a beer statue. He recounted the story that this was made during the war and was modeled after one of his daughters. I believe he said it was daughter Jane, who at the time, was pregnant. The writing on the back of the statue was "Kilroy was Here," a popular slogan during the war. He mentioned he had several other non-beer items, but they had been given previously to one of his grandchildren.

#### How Plasto Came to Be

Plasto Manufacturing Company was founded by two men: Joseph Borowitz and Leo Hochstadter. They had met in 1944 in Chicago. Hochstadter had been a salesman of spray equipment machinery and acted as a rep for several other companies.

Borowitz was the factory superintendent at the Bradley Manufacturing Co. in Chicago and had a deep knowledge of pottery making techniques. Joe grew up in Louisville, Kentucky—a hot bed of ceramic companies. I inquired whether Joe had ever worked at the W. J. Smith Company in Louisville, but he had no knowledge of them. Joe had two automobile repair shops in Louisville prior to moving to Chicago to work for Bradley.

When they met, Leo was selling Plaster of Paris to a Chicago frame-making company called Sorly. Sorly was doing picture frame work for Chicago's Sears Company. Leo learned that Sorly was going out of business and approached Joe about the two of them buying the com-

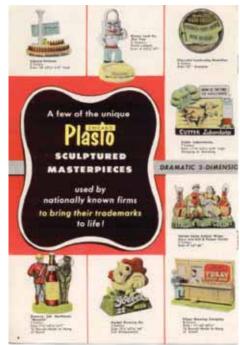


Figure 3. One page from an 8-Page Plasto Pamphlet

pany, which they did. In their joint venture, Joe concentrated on the manufacturing end of the business while Leo handled the marketing.

They started the business in 1944 with less than \$1,000, at a small location on North Wells Street. Their space in the building was only twenty by eighty feet. The frame business rose and in two short months there was "too much buzzing for such



Figure 4. Large Falstaff Bust

a small hive" as Joe put it. The Sears business was really taking off. As they grew, space became a problem. Joe approached his bank about a loan to purchase a new \$38,000 building at 1536 N. Clyburn in Chicago. The bank liked what Plasto was doing and gave them a loan for \$48,000 to buy the building and have an extra \$10,000 for incidentals. Would that ever happen in today's world? So they moved into the 9,000 square foot factory and increased their employee count from 2 to 55. Sales that first year (1944) were about \$30,000.

Over the next few years their

business grew. They made a variety of advertising items along with the frame business, but Sears remained their largest single customer.

They knew there was a market for plaster compound articles such as bookends, wall brackets, mirror frames, and standing ash trays. But where did the beer statues come in? How did they get into that business? I never did get a clear answer from Joe. He did indicate, however, that they never advertised and that all of their business was word-of-mouth.

I find it interesting that the Plasto pamphlet shown in Fig-

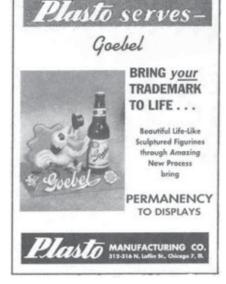
ure 3 [ed. note: if space permits, the entire 8-pg. booklet will be reproduced in Part 2] suggests that the company made a large Falstaff statue. Do any readers have knowledge of a large Falstaff made by Plasto? Many of the smaller Falstaff versions are marked Plasto, but a large bustlike statue has yet to surface. In the advertizing brochure the statue is described as being 22" X 10" X 18", a "big boy" for sure.

Part two of this article (Summer Issue) will cover the Plasto Manufacturing Process, Other Plasto Businesses, and the ultimate fate of the company.

The majority of the beer related statues made by Plasto were for breweries located in the Midwest. The list includes:

Alpine Canadian Ace Columbia Drewrys Duquesne Falstaff Fox DeLuxe Frankenmuth Goebel Old Reading Pabst Patrick Henry Pfeiffer Pilsen Van Merritt Yusay

Figure 5. Plasto Advertisement



#### The Hawai'i Beer Book Bars, Breweries & Beer Cuisine: An Essential Guide for Beer-Lovers in the Islands

In *The Hawai'i Beer Book: Bars, Breweries & Beer Cuisine,* a guide to Hawai'i's vibrant beer scene, Cheryl Chee Tsutsumi shares the history of beer in the Islands, takes the reader to local craft breweries and explains the basics of home brewing. This 192-page book also includes more than twodozen delicious recipes incorporating beer, suggestions for food-and-beer pairings, listings and reviews of local bars and restaurants to aid in seeking out the perfect pint, and fun beer trivia. The comprehensive resource section lists everything from beer books and events to breweriana clubs and podcasts. An essential for both long-time beer lovers and those just developing an appreciation for it, *The Hawai'i Beer Book* will help the reader to discover, enjoy and learn more about beer in the Aloha State.

Cheryl Chee Tsutsumi is an award winning travel journalist who has covered Hawai'i, Asia, and the South Pacific for numerous local and Mainland publications, including "Travel + Leisure," "Fodor's," "Contra-Costa Times," "Chicago Sun Times," "Honolulu Star-Bulletin," "HAWAII," "Hawai'i Westways," "Hawaiian Style" and "Modern Luxury." She is the author of 10 books about Hawai'i; *The Hawai'i Beer Book* is her first title for Watermark Publishing. *The Hawai'i Beer Book: Bars, Breweries* & *Beer Cuisine* (ISBN 978-0-9796769-2-5) is available for \$15.95 at resort shops, bookstores and other retail outlets, or direct from the publisher at www.bookshawaii.net.

Contact Watermark Publishing, 1088 Bishop St., Suite 310, Honolulu, HI 96813; telephone (808) 587-7766; toll-free (866) 900-BOOK; fax (808) 521-3461; e-mail sales@bookshawaii.net.



eme a.

Keglet Heat

Motion Lamp 9-1/2" high 5" wide Esslinger's Inc.,

Philadelphia, PA - \$123

# Auction Hysteria $\equiv$

By Robert Hajicek



Left: Blatz Reverse-on-Glass Sign (some paint flaking) 8-1/2" x 14-1/4" x 4-1/2" Blatz Brewing Co., Milwaukee, WI - \$433 Center: Uncle Sam Ale Porcelain Sign 15" diameter Conway Bros. Brewery, Troy, NY - \$1,035







Standard Beer Lighted ROG Sign

Brewery of origin is unknown to

6-1/4" x 13-1/4"

author - \$284

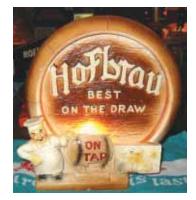
Sieben's Bock Paper Lithograph 27-1/2" x 39" including frame Sieben's Brewery, Chicago, IL \$1,525



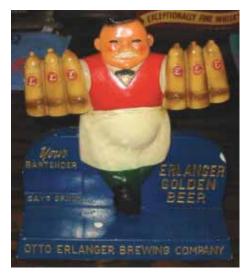
Above Rt.: Carnegie Cone Top Can Duquesne Brewing Co., Stowe Twp, PA \$2,425

Left: Hamm's Scripto Lighter; Theo. Hamm Brewing Co., St. Paul, MN - \$154 Below Left: Burgermeister Backbar Chalk 16" x 14-1/2" San Francisco Brewing Corp., San Francisco, CA - \$329 Below Rt: Hofbrau Backbar Lighted Chalk 11-1/4" x 11" Hofbrau Brewing Co., Allentown, PA - \$1,125

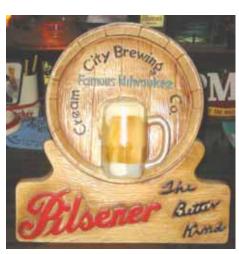




www.nababrew.com



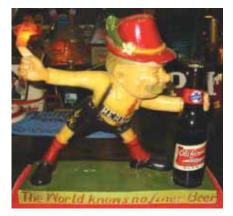
Erlanger Backbar Chalk 10-1/4" x 9-1/2" Otto Erlanger Brewing Co., Phila. PA - \$1,365



Pilsener Backbar Chalk 16" x 15-1/4" Cream City Brewing Co., Milwaukee, WI - \$1,259



Old Export Backbar Chalk 13-1/4" x 14" Cumberland Brewing Co., Cumberland, MD - \$687



Old German Backbar Chalk 13-3/4" x 15" Queen City Brewing Co., Cumberland, MD - \$338







Blackhawk Tray, 13" diameter Blackhawk Brewing Co., Davenport, IA - \$214



Omaha Brewing Ass'n Glass 3-7/8" tall Omaha Brewing Ass'n, Omaha, NE - \$128

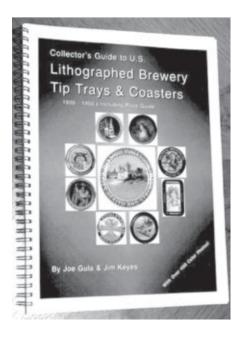
The Breweriana Collector

Latrobe, PA - \$790



Top: Wooden Shoe Backbar Chalk 5-3/4" x 10-1/2" Wooden Shoe Brewing Co., Minster, OH - \$588

Left: Rheingold Backbar Chalk 12" x 7-1/2" Liebmann Breweries, New York, NY - \$1,882



# Book Update

by Joe Gula

### Collector's Guide to US Lithographed Brewery Tip Trays & Coasters By Joe Gula & Jim Keyes

n August of 2006, Jim Keyes and I published this book with the help and input of brewery collectors all across the US. At the time of publication, we had identified 465 different tip trays for inclusion.

The book attempted to list *all* lithographed brewery tip trays/ coasters produced from the earliest pre-Prohibition examples through the 1950s. Specifically excluded from the listing, however, were any post-1960 tip trays, non-lithographed tip trays and coasters (i.e., brass, chrome), and lithographed ashtrays.

At the time of publication, we figured the book would be a good enticement for others to bring their trays forward, so they could also be catalogued so others in the hobby could be aware of them, and enjoy the pictures of them into the future.

State	Brewery Name	Description	City	Shape	Size
NY	Buffalo Brewing Co.	Bellweiser tip	Buffalo	Rd	??
VA	Southern Breweries	Derby King	Norfolk	Rd	??
PA	National Brewing Co.	Stock: Caricatu	ire		
	0	Yachting #24	Steelton	Rd	4"
AL	Mobile Brewery	Stock: Girl #?	Mobile	Rd	4"
WI	Mueller Bros.				
	Brewing Co.	Stock: Girl			
		w/Horse #8	Two Rivers	s Rd	4"

#### What's been found?

Surprisingly, 18 months later, we have only turned up a mere 12 additional trays. Five of the new trays were eBay finds, with the balance coming from members of the hobby.

From a geographic perspective, the largest group of newlydiscovered tip trays comes from Wisconsin, with the addition of six new stock trays from various breweries. Other states with new trays include: CA, IL, IN, NY, PA, and OR.

#### Do you have any trays?

We are continuing to look for new tip trays not listed, and would welcome any additional input. Do you have a tip tray from your local brewery? If you have anything you think might not have been covered, please email me at joeffd@indy.rr.com.

#### UFOs

In compiling the information for the book, we learned about other tip trays of which photos were not available. There were some that people had owned or seen, but no longer had the tray or a photo. Others were tip trays that individuals had heard of, but hadn't actually seen. In the box at right is a listing of the various tip trays that may exist, but for which we were unable to find photographs. On the next page you will find some of our latest tip tray finds.



## Quad Cities Convention Hotel Offers Online Booking

The Lodge Hotel in Bettendof, Iowa, wanted to share with NABA members their online booking procedure, found at www.lodgehotel.com. 1) Click the "Reserve Now" button at the top left of the screen 2) Enter as a group member 3) Group = naba; Password = naba (be sure to use lower case when entering these codes) 4) Confirm the group and password entered 5) Select the dates of your arrival and departure 6) Leave the room type selection set at "no preference" and click "ok" Step #6 will bring you to the available rooms and rates for your stay 7) Continue through the reservation process and you will receive a confirmation number

If you have any questions or problems, contact: Katelyn Sandon Director of Sales The Lodge Hotel 900 Spruce Hills Drive Bettendorf, IA 52722 563-359-7141 Fx: 563-355-0670 ksandon@lodgehotel.com NABA QUAD CITIES CONVENTION 2008

### July 29 Through August 3

Bettendorf Iowa

The Lodge Hotel and Conference Center

The Breweriana Collector

www.nababrew.com

### Stroh Bottle Closures



by Joe Olsen

troh bottling goes back to when the company was known as The Lion Brewery; incorporated 1875 – 1885, but possibly in the 1870s. The early closures would have been a cork wired to the bottle.

When the company became The B. Stroh Brewery Co. in 1885, it was still using the cork, which had a crude depiction of a lion in a crest burned into the top. This gave rise to the slogan, "See that corks are branded with the trade mark," that appeared on labels and glasses from that era.

Next we come to the period when a variety of closures were used, including the Lightning Stopper and the Hutchinson Stopper, made of such materials as wire, rubber, cork, and porcelain. The Hutchinson Stopper in porcelain was the only one to carry advertising, i.e., the brewery name and logo.

There are three known versions of these from the Stroh Brewery (see figure 1). The first shown is the most artistic. It is red on white and reads *Stroh's Celebrated Lager Beer* with a well-defined lion and crest. The second is a red and black rendition of a smaller lion crest, and no mention of the state. The third is black on white with a simplified crest reading *Stroh's Detroit Mich.* 

These lasted until about 1903, when we entered a new era; but I would be remiss in not mentioning, before we leave this porcelain period, another style of porcelain/cork stopper (figure 2, next pg.). But please un-



Figure 1

derstand that this was not used as a closure – it was simply an advertising giveaway. I believe it would have been used to reseal the Malt Extract or the larger, quart-sized beer bottles sold by the brewery. After all, the Malt Extract was recommended for nursing mothers, invalids, and sick children, so one might not have used an entire bottle in one



Figure 2



Figure 3

serving. So these porcelain/cork stoppers were available, and although not used by the brewery for production bottling, were issued by the Stroh Brewery.

The next era of closures is one that most people can relate to: the time of that which is commonly known as the "bottle cap." These closures are more accurately called "crowncorks," and calling them bottle caps is a common mis-identification of the closure shown in figure 3, except by purists. The dedicated hobbyist will explain that, in 1892, a gentleman by the name of William Painter was issued a US patent, numbered 468'226, on February 2, for a bottlesealing device that he called a "crown" because of its resemblance to a royal crown. This device was crimped to a lip on

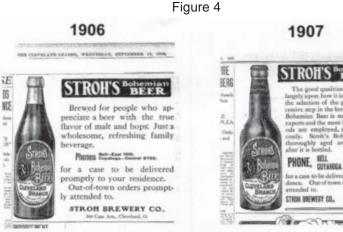
the neck of the bottle. The thin, round cork disc on the reverse served two purposes: it helped seal the crown to the bottle; and kept the contents of the bottle from coming into contact with the metal crown.

Although invented in 1892, it did not come into wide use until the 1900s. I had been laboring under the impression that the Stroh Brewery started using crowncorks around 1903. As you can see, however, by the two newspaper ads (figure 4) dated 1906 and 1907 (both from the Cleveland Branch [1893 - 1938]), the transition seems to have taken place during 1907, at least in Cleveland. The Detroit plant probably converted earlier.

We all know, however, that advertisements are not a true barometer for dating items. Pre-Prohibition crowncorks from the Stroh Brewery Co. (prior to 1917) are almost non-existent. I have one in my collection, and it is the only one I have seen.

Pre-Prohibition crowncorks are easily identifiable by their natural-state cork composition: there are large holes or spaces in the cork disc (see figure 3, left); whereas Prohibition and later cork material was compressed (fig. 3, rt.), making a smoother surface.

Prohibition crowns from the '20s exist for the following soft drinks: Grape Soda, Cream Soda (figure 5), Strawberry Soda, and Orange Soda. Stroh Products also put out a Caldonia Dry Ginger Ale, Old Gold Club Soda, and Stroh's Club Soda. I don't know if the crowncorks on these



The Breweriana Collector



Figure 5



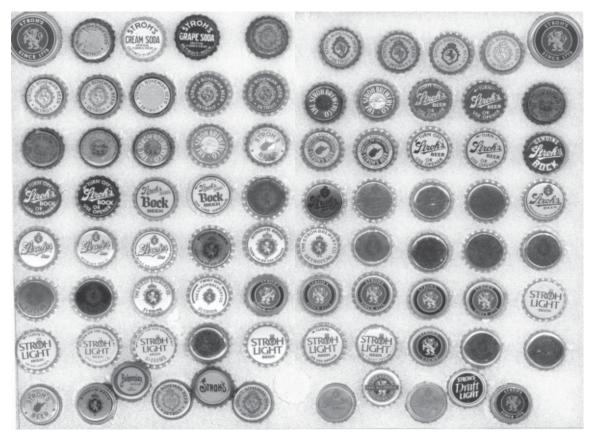


Figure 6

latter products say *Stroh's* on them. Certainly, the labels do.

Next in the history of closures come the composition-lined crowns. These appeared on the scene around the late 1950s through early '60s, and were considered much more sanitary than their predecessors. They remain in use today in most, if not all, breweries.

Next in line came the twist-off composition crown. This advancement all but eliminated the bottle opener, otherwise known as the "church key." Most realize these came into widespread use in the 1960s, but did you know that they were first used in 1935 by the Terre Haute Brewing Co. of Indiana? Figure 6 shows eighty-one different (yes, they're all different) Stroh Brewery crowns, including all varieties except four that are not included here. My hope is that this review of closures will get more people started on the interesting world of crown collecting. Where I've chosen Stroh's crowns, you could create your own category: animals, foreign, birds, cartoons, sports – the list can go on and on.

Getting this all down in print has made me thirsty. I think I'll go twist a crown and enjoy a cold one. Before I go, however, I should thank John W. Stroh III for his help and his knowledge of all things Stroh's. Contact me if you have questions: jolsen2205@wowway.com. Cheers.

### Travels with Brewster

#### By Fred & Mary Clinton

Brewster is 10 and a half now and today brought home for us to see his 16<sup>th</sup> 'possum of the year. He doesn't harm them, just brings them to the deck, gets praised and lets them go on their merry way. We only mention this because this is "Travels With Brewster," which, for the 'possum, has a different meaning.

Our last major trip, on the occasion of our 25th anniversary, was to the Canadian Rockies and British Columbia. It took place in September of 2007. We traveled by VIA Rail from Windsor, Ontario to Toronto and then to Jasper, Alberta. If you haven't been on VIA we can heartily recommend it. The food was excellent, the train was clean, and staff well trained (no pun intended) and accommodating. And the best part: if you are a senior you pay full fare and your companion travels free. But, about the beer.

Before getting on the train to head west, we had one night in

Toronto which gave us the opportunity to bag one brewpub while we were there. It happened to be Mill Street, which was in an old factory complex that had been turned into chic restaurants and trendy shops. There were a total of ten beers we could sample, but we passed

on the Frambozen and the Wit. Instead, we sampled the Stock Ale, Organic Lager, Tankhouse Ale, Coffee Porter, Helles Bock, Cobblestone Stout, a cask conditioned ESB, and a Pilsner. We started with the Stock Ale which was light but favorable and we deemed it a good intro beer. The Organic Lager was a nice, full bodied beer that was slightly sweet on the finish. The Tankhouse Ale was a very well-balanced pale that finished with a good dry taste. The Coffee Porter was bursting with coffee nose and flavor – we wanted a scoop of ice cream with it. The Stout, on the other hand, was disappointing. It was thin in body and had no roast flavor.

The Bock was very good, having both ample body and a dry quality. The ESB, which had been dry-hopped, was very true to the English style, being nearly still. At first we detected a hint of diacetyl, but this diminished and the beer was after all, quite drinkable. The Pilsner was good, but lacking in true hophead appeal. It was, however, dry on the finish. After all was said and done, we awarded the Tankhouse Ale the Four Paw Pick \*\*\*\* of the evening.



Partner / Food & Beverage Manager

Our first visit in the West was the Jasper Brewing Co. located right across the street from the train station (how fortuitous). But we rented our car first, drove to our B&B, took a brief sight-see to get the lay of the land, and then headed to the brewpub. The gal at the car rental agency had reported the beers to be very good, but recommended we eat somewhere else. We took her advice and were glad we did, based on conversation we had with another couple who had been on the train and had eaten there. But, about the beer.

They had six beers on tap so (of course) we had the sampler, and are happy to report: the Rocket Ridge Raspberry was a nice starter beer with just a hint of raspberry, which Mary could not detect - but it was easy to drink and not at all sweet; the B. Hill Pils was a pretty good pils (although it could have used a little more hoppiness) - a good hot weather beer with a slightly dry finish (Fred could have had more of this one); the Honey Bear Ale was another starter beer with a slightly sweet finish and a hint of honey, served with a lime (which we

quickly discarded); the next beer surprised us – Liftline Cream Ale served on nitrogen, a serving method usually reserved for stouts and porters – this resulted in a nice creamy white head, but we thought the beer itself was a little thin and wimpy, and didn't finish well; the fifth beer was

the 6060 Stout named after a famous steam engine, "Bullet Nosed Betty," on the rail line – good roast flavor and medium

Continued on P. 36

## = Executive Secretary's Report =

By John Stanley NABA • PO Box 64 • Chapel Hill, NC 27514 naba@mindspring.com www.nababrew.com

C onvention registration, ballots for officer and board slots, and renewal slips for members (please pay only if your name is on the back of the renewal page) are provided with this issue of the *Breweriana Collector*. Please note that all officer and three board member positions are up for election. Please take the time to vote and note that if you are not happy with any of the candidates, the write-in option is available.

The cutoff date for NABA dues is May 31<sup>st</sup>. A renewal page is included with this mail-

ing. You only need to renew if your name appears on the back of the form (your mailing label has an expiration date of May 31, 2008). Please take the time to send in your renewal. Dues can be paid using PayPal. Just send the amount you are paying to naba@mindspring.com. (note: Foreign Members can use this option, but please pay in US funds). Also note that a "No Change Needed" box has been added to the renewal form if you want to keep your Directory listing the same for next year. Minor changes to the directory listing can be made in the PayPal message area.

If any of your directory (esp. address) information has changed please send any corrections to the address below.

I would like to welcome the following new members (next pg.). Take the time to correspond with new members who have similar collecting interests as yours. Sharing information and collections is what NABA is all about. Special thanks to Kevin Kious (1), Larry Moter (1), eBay Auction (2), rejoins (2) and the NABA Web Site (13) for recruiting these new members.

#### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

FILL OUT, DETACH AND MAIL TO: NABA, PO Box 64, Chapel Hill, NC 27514-0064

I wish to join NABA and payent is enclosed. Annual Membership dues are: US \$25, 5 years for \$100; Canada \$30 (US); and overseas \$40 (US). Dues expire May 31; dues paid after Jan. 1 are valid until May 31 of the following year. Please make your check or money order payable to NABA (please type or print legibly!).

Name	Spouse			
Address				
City		State	Zip plus 4	
Phone (incl. area code)		Amt.	Enclosed \$	
Upon receipt of Application, w	<b>e will send the current Memb</b> If breweriana that you o	Sponsor ership Directory, a Membership Co collect. You may select a MA es, for incusion in the Mem	e <mark>rtificate, and two recent issues of</mark> AXIMUM of six different lis	The Breweriana Collector.
<ul> <li>All Breweriana</li> <li>Ash Trays</li> <li>Barrels</li> <li>Books &amp; Magazines</li> <li>Boottles</li> <li>Brewery Equipment</li> <li>Calendars</li> <li>Cans</li> <li>Cases</li> <li>Chairs</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Clocks</li> <li>Coasters</li> <li>Corkscrews</li> <li>Crowns</li> <li>Dealer</li> <li>Foam Scrapers</li> <li>Glasses</li> <li>History</li> <li>Knives</li> <li>Labels</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>q Lamps</li> <li>q Leaded Windows</li> <li>q Lithographs</li> <li>q Matches</li> <li>q Match Safes</li> <li>q Medals</li> <li>q Menus/menusheets</li> <li>q Mini Beers</li> <li>q Mirrors</li> <li>q Mugs &amp; Steins</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>q Neon Signs</li> <li>q Openers</li> <li>q Paper Items</li> <li>q Patches</li> <li>q Photos</li> <li>q Pinbacks</li> <li>q Pitchers</li> <li>q Playing Cards</li> <li>q Reverse On Glass</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>q Salt Shakers</li> <li>q Show Promoter</li> <li>q Signs</li> <li>q Statues</li> <li>q Tap Knobs</li> <li>q Thermometers</li> <li>q Tip Trays</li> <li>q Tokens</li> <li>q Trays</li> <li>q Watch Fobs</li> </ul>

Specific breweries, brands cities\_

Be sure to fill out ALL the requested information. This is used for the Membership Directory. If you skip an item, you've limited the usefulness of your listing.

### New Members

Beyer, Chris (Gina) 1290 Willow Park Way Cumming GA 30041-7911 678-947-0799 cbeyer2100@aol.com Calendars-Leaded Windows-Match Safes-Reverse on Glass-Tip Trays/Trays; Pre-Prohibition

Carrocia, John (Sandy) 5826 Columbia Rd North Olmsted OH 44070-4642 440-779-4058 john.carrocia@sbcglobal.com All Breweriana-Cans-Signs; Cleveland

Darr, Robert 3896 Columbus Rd NE Canton OH 44705-4431 All Breweriana-History-Lithos-Mugs & Steins-Neons-Tap Knobs

**Douglas, A Ray** (Grace) 400 Lake Ave NE Apt S403 Largo FL 33771-1684 727-585-8230 **Labels-Mugs & Steins** 

Griffin, Milton 1825 Martin St Largo FL 33774-1418 727-639-4548 bevofox1953@yahoo.com Matches-Menus/Menu Sheets-Paper Items-Photos-Playing Cards-Post Cards-Salt Shakers

Hoglund, Dan (Sylvia) 344 Louisiana Ave Oak Ridge TN 37830-8550 865-483-7222 shoglund@bellsouth.net All Breweriana; Southern US

LaPierre, Thomas 43 Duprey Rd Mooers NY 12958-3504 518-314-7125 naftaking@yahoo.com Bottles-Cans-Labels-Mirrors-Mugs & Steins-Neons-Signs-Tap Knobs-Tip Trays/Trays Merwin, Roy (Linda) PO Box 71 Alhambra IL 62001-0071 618-488-7945 iceeggman@yahoo.com Clocks-Glasses-Neons-Reverse on Glass-Signs-Tip Trays/Trays; Stag & Falstaff

Powell, Don (Sally) 2220 Cedarbrooke Dr Jefferson City MO 65109-1977 573-634-3777 crown420@emgarqmail.com All Breweriana; Missouri

Retchless, Brian (Kerry) 12325 S Alcan St Olathe KS 66062-5947 913-782-0103 Bottles-Cans-Signs

Sandy, Frank (Sally) 312 Barn Side Ln Eureka MO 63025-1648 636-587-9884 budtaster@gmail.com Bottles-Cases-History-Photos-Signs-TipTrays/Trays; Missouri & New Jersey

Schrmack, Charles (Patricia) 105 Woodruff Rd Clinton MA 01510-1337 978-368-8063 All Breweriana-Cans-Tap Knobs-Trays; OH, MA, WV, PA, Midwest

Stidham, Ken 12014 Kilbride Dr Cincinnati OH 45251-1273 513-383-7560 kenstidham@fuse.net Neons-Reverse on Glass-Signs-Statues-Tap Knobs; Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky

Sudduth, Robert (Janet) 1115 Lebanon Ave Belleville IL 62221-4017 618-234-7241 bud\_bob@charter.net All Breweriana(Anheuser-Busch & Budweiser)-Knives (All esp Pre-Pro)-Match Safes (All) Travis, Barry (Emma) 752 Nevada Ave E Saint Paul MN 55106-1733 952-846-8481 oldbeer@gmail.com All Breweriana-Cans-Clocks-Foam Scrapers-Leaded Windows-Neons-Reverse on Glass-Salt Shakers-Signs-Tip Trays/Trays

Weishaar, Jerry (Jane) 1780 College Ln S Wheaton IL 60187-8841 630-653-8291 the\_weishaars@yahoo.com Cans

Wenthe, Mike (Phyllis) 6510 95th Avenue Ct W Taylor Ridge IL 61284-9395 309-787-2948 mwenthe2@hotmail.com All Breweriana; Rock Island Brewing Co

Wilson, Irwin R PO Box 5731 Fallon NV 89407-5731 Bottles-Cans-Coasters-Labels-Patches-Signs

Wiseman, Mark C 3505 Sheridan Ave Des Moines IA 50310-4557 515-255-2620 markcwiseman@msn.com All Breweriana-Books & Magazines-Bottles-Labels-Paper Items; Midwest US (esp Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, Michigan)

Worley, Thomas 350 Edgeboro Dr Manchester PA 17345-1206 717-266-1749 brewinginyork@msn.com All Breweriana; York PA body, a classic dry stout (also available on nitro). As usual we saved the hoppiest beer for last and in this case it was the Rock Hopper IPA, a well-balanced beer with good mouth feel (although some hopheads such as Frank Z. might like more hops). Our Four Paw Pick \*\*\*\* was the 6060 Stout.

The Jasper Brewing Co. had shirts, glassware and other breweriana available.

Heading south on the Icefields Parkway - a beautiful drive incidentally - we were aiming for Canmore, Alberta just outside the Banff National Park. Banff itself was a zoo what with the thousands of whiteheads meandering around. What must it look like in summer? Anyway, our B&B was in Canmore and so was the Grizzly Paw Brewing Co., which is where we headed for dinner: big mistake, at least as far as food and service go. The beers were decent but nothing stood out. They had seven on tap: Big Head Nut Brown, Rutting Elk Red, Beavertail Raspberry, Grumpy Bear Honey Wheat (bears and honey

flavored beers go together out here), Powder Hound Pilsner, Light seasonal, and IPA.

The nut brown was a nice dry brown with a good amount of chocolate and good body. The Red was a very mild ale with no problems but it just was not very assertive. The raspberry was a refreshing fruit beer, not cloying and good mouth feel for a lighter beer. Very easy drinking was the thought on the honey wheat, with a subtle honey flavor and dry finish. Neither of us liked the pilsner - it had an off flavor and was lacking in hops. By far the worst beer on the menu was the light seasonal, with a distinct diacetyl (butterscotch) flavor. And the IPA would have been good for the style if it had been called a pale ale. But as an IPA there was nothing there for the hopheads. We found no Four Paw Pick here.

We couldn't help feeling that if they put as much effort into their beers as they put into breweriana they would have excellent beer. Grizzly Paw has a separate, across the alley, shop with shirts of every description, hats, glassware, etc. galore.

> Just for the record: let it be known that we did extensive high altitude, steep, trail hiking to ward off the calories beer is thought to contain. Really folks, this is some beautiful country and although the attractions main were crowded with whiteheads you only had to get 200 vards off the main trail and there was no one.

We spent three more nights in the Rockies before heading west into British Columbia, including two at Waterton Glacier National Park. Each of the parks (Jasper, Banff, and Waterton) is home to a Fairmont Hotel. These are old "Grande Dames" of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century built by railroad magnates and they are very pricey. While we didn't stay at any of them (Editor Lee C. said our \$0 budget wouldn't allow it) Fred had to see them and even order his favorite cocktail, a Perfect Rob Roy. Well, imagine his surprise when they willingly obliged him with an excellent drink and then levied a \$14.00 tariff. Yowser!

So it was on to B.C. and our first night on the way to Vancouver found us in Osoyoos. Easy for you to say. But before we got to the O town we stopped at Fernie, B.C. Why, you ask? Because they had a micro brewery called, not surprisingly, Fernie Brewing Co. A couple of things stood out about this place. One was the owner: although they weren't open when we arrived, he welcomed us with open arms and spent considerable time with us. Second was the fact that Phil Mandzuk, Winnipeg's only NABA member, had been there about a month prior on his way to the Canadian National Breweriana Convention. Rest assured the owner recalled Phil in great detail, especially the part about Phil getting the Fernie brewer totally smashed. But, about the beer.

FBC has three beers, all of them canned. This is still unusual among craft brewers. The beers were Rocky Mountain Genuine Lager, First Trax Brown Ale, and The Griz Pale Ale. The lager we would de-



Scenes from the Fernie Brewing Company, Fernie, British Colombia







scribe as "beefy" with good mouth feel and a nice dry finish. First Trax was easy drinking but lacking any chocolate flavor you would expect in a brown. And the Griz was disappointing in that it lacked the hop flavor expected with this style. It tasted fine but just was not a typical pale ale. FBC has a very nice tasting room, a good selection of breweriana, beer to go, and a super friendly owner.

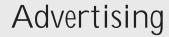
For the night we ended up in Osoyoos - just a beer throw north of the border and on the edge of desert. This is wine country: the Okanagan Valley to be specific. But to our delight the O town is home to a brewpub and the brewpub shares the parking lot with a motel, so sample away. The brewpub is the Westridge Brewing Co. and the evening we arrived a local lass was recording her first CD. So between the recording folks and all her local fans the place was swamped. What to do? Find a place at the bar, order the sampler, and choose a winner to drink the rest of the evening while awaiting the crowd to diminish before ordering dinner. But, about the beer.

WBC had five beers on tap, all without cute names: wheat, blonde, blackberry honey, brown, and IPA. The wheat was a good North American style with no clove or banana flavors – crisp and clean – a drinkable summer beer. As you would expect from the name, the blonde was a starter beer but an acceptable one. It was very clean with a nice finish. Honey beers seem popular in this part of Canada so, (perhaps) to the blonde they added blackberry - and it was nicely done as the blackberry flavor was noticeable but not over the top. The brown was very nice with chocolate overtones and a dry finish. When tasting the IPA we began to suspect that the region simply does not go for the big American hop flavor, because this one was again more of a pale ale as far as our tastes go. So we would call this a Canadian Pale ale but still a verv nice beer. Shirts were available and our room was only about 200 feet (or maybe 70 meters) away.

Holy smokes! We're at the end of our column and we haven't finished with all the places we visited. I guess we'll have to fit those in some other time. Overall, we had a great time in absolutely breathtaking scenery, and were able to add a couple of really nice items to our Native art collections. Probably the only downside to this whole trip was the fact that the Canadian dollar reached par with the US dollar while we were there. You should have seen the headlines: A buck is a buck. But for years, we had gotten many more dollars than we proffered and now, even steven, you can feel our pain.

Until next time, Cheers!





#### **Classified Ad Guidelines**

All advertising materials and inquiries should be directed to:

Lee Chichester The Breweriana Collector PO Box 878 Meadows of Dan, VA 24120 540-593-2011 falconer@swva.net

#### CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

NABA members may advertise up to six lines (about 50 words) in the **Buy-Sell-Trade** area for \$5.00 per issue. We are unable to provide proof copies or tear sheets of Classified ads.

#### DISPLAY ADVERTISING

Full page\$1	50
Half page\$	80
Quarter page\$	
Eighth page\$	
Business card (3.5 x 2 in.)\$	15

Color increases above prices by 50%. Place any classified or display ad for four consecutive issues and pay for three only. We recommend that display advertisers supply camera-ready copy. Materials that are oversized or undersized will be changed to correctly fit your paid space.

#### PAYMENT

US funds must accompany order. Make check payable to NABA and send to address above.

#### DEADLINES

Issue	Materials Receipt	Est. Publish Date	
Spring	March 1	April 1	
Summer	May 15	July 1	
Fall	September 1	October 1	
Winter	December 1	January 1	
Memb. Direc.	December 1	January 1	

Want ads are accepted only from members of NABA. The Officers, Directors, and Editorial Staff make no effort to investigate the value or authenticity of any item offered for sale or trade, or of the business reliability of the persons placing advertisements. NABA and its Officers and Directors disclaim responsibility for inaccuracies that may occur in its publications, as well as any liability for any transactions to which it is not a party. 🛲 Buy • Sell • Trade 🚃

MAGNETIC TRAY HANGERS: \$15 per dozen postpaid (3 in. x 8 in.). Send check to: Paul M. Rahne; 2550 Talleson Ct.; Colorado Springs, CO 80919. 719-590-6262; paulrahne@msn.com.

**HELP ME COMPLETE MY LIBRARY!** I need back issues of the NABA magazine, mostly before issue #86. Am also interested in back issues of other magazines, chapter newsletters, etc. (I do not need any BCCA or ABA magazines). Contact: Mark Benbow, member NABA, BCCA, ABA, and Rusty Bunch – mark@rustycans.com V141

**WANTED: Milwaukee Saloon and Tavern Photographs.** Interior and exteriors of pre-Prohibition and early post-Pro drinking establishments, breweries, bottlers, etc. Jim Kupferschmidt; 414-643-0050.

V142

**MINIATURE BEER BOTTLES & GO-WITHS:** Will buy complete collections or single bottles. Also, will pay top dollar for Bill's Speciality Manufacturing Company and Edward A. Muth & Sons Inc. miniature beer sales literature and price lists. John Weatherhead, 678-393-8505; wxxhead@msn.com.

V143

WANTED: Items from Loyalhanna Brewing Co. (Monastery Beer) Latrobe, PA. Also Rolling Rock Beer items. Contact Jim Mickinak, 724-539-7941 or 10easyst@comcast.net.

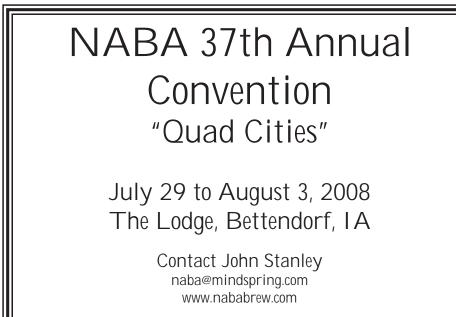
V144

**WANTED: 9" Round Button Signs** from any US breweries. Must be in excellent condition. Email with photo and price to: barrymgd@aol.com or write with same info to: Barry Hunsberger, 2300 Meadow Lane Dr., Easton, PA 18040.

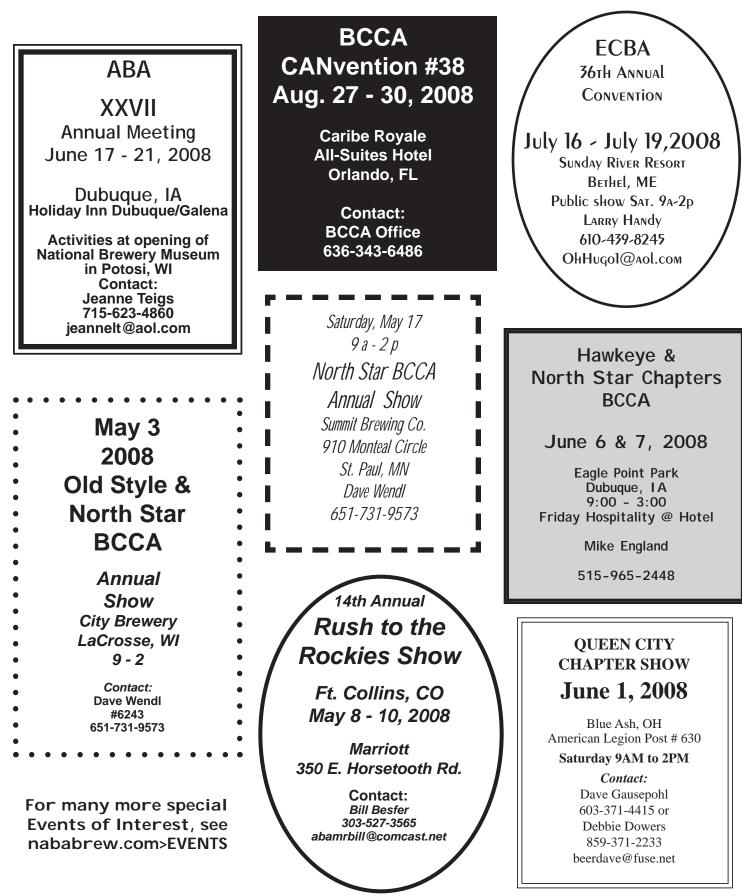
V145

**BACK ISSUES** of the *BC* for sale: Issues 87; 91 - 98; 100 - 102; 104 - 109; 111 - 137. Issue 110 is \$10. Others are \$6 each and five for \$25. Shipping is \$1 per issue and \$4 for each set of five. Make check payable to NABA and send to PO Box 64, Chapel Hill, NC 27514.

NABA



## $\blacksquare$ Events of Interest $\equiv$



# Hope to see you in the Quad Cities!

